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DOUBLE
ISSUE**



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Petter Gold Andrew Petter blogs on politics, consumer culture, education and hockey: www.macleans.ca/andrewpetter/



7 DAYS
 the week

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF TOM STEPHENS

Last week, the 37-year-old supermarket worker made himself a prime suspect in the Ipswich, England, poisoner killings by telling reporters he knew all the victims, that he fit the police profile of the killer, and that he frequented prostitutes. Stephens' quotes appeared in a Sunday news paper, and by Monday he was in custody at the Suffolk police station. Then, on Tuesday, police announced a "significant" development with the arrest of a second suspect, a 44-year-old man.

Good news

DION STANDS UP

Highness Dion put gristle ahead of egotism when he refused to support the Bloc Québécois attempt to topple the Harper government over the Afghanistan mission. The Bloc threatened a new confidence vote in February unless Harper agreed to explicitly shift the mission's focus away from military operations and toward reconstruction. But military ops have unwisely proved that the two profiles are indivisible in the volatile north, and Dion seems to have acknowledged that. "I don't understand the Bloc's position at all," Dion said. His stand won't make it any easier to win votes in Quebec, where the mission remains unpopular, but it was the right thing for the country and for the safety of the troops.

BLOG BUBBLE

Internet the blogging revolution may be beginning to bubble. A new study by Gartner says the total number of blogs will peak around two million early next year. All ready about 200 million people have given up on blogging since the phenomenon's first gained mainstream popularity after years ago. The study confirms the findings of Blogosphere expert Dave Killy, who's reported that the number of new blogs being set up has slowed dramatically over the past two years. Free speech is great, and there are certainly some fine blogs out there. But a shrinking of the herd is healthy sign. Really, how many people do we need parading Benetton's underwear choices?

BELGIUM LIVES

Belgium's public broadcaster last week aired a crash news bulletin during the Dutch-speaking half of the country. Hardly,

but proclaimed independence. Produced without repeat and without license, the new was so convincing that Belgian diplomats were calling home to learn if their country had really disintegrated. A spokesman for Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt was furious, calling the broadcast "irresponsible." But there was good news in all of this: More than 1,000 viewers had dialed the nation's switchboard, proving they really do care about the fate of their divided country.

FACE OF THE WEEK



MISS USA, Tara Conner, after leaving she'll be allowed to break her crown, despite reports of her drinking and carousing in public.

ALL'S WELLS

Say what you will about steering player salaries. Wynn's Wells' decision to sign a US\$12-million contract with the Toronto Blue Jays was a win-win for both sides. One of the most gifted all-around players ever to wear the Jays' uniform, Wells ignored the counsel of advisers who were dangling some greater fee eight inches a year from now and the opportunity to play in more tax-friendly jurisdictions, and decided to strike Toronto his home away from home. This was a deal about loyalty, not greed.

Bad news

ENOUGH ALREADY

What exactly does Maher fear has to do to clear his name? After being expelled by the U.S., confined in Syria, then convicted of war crimes by an inquiry in Canada, another peace move should be stopped. And yet U.S. Ambassador David Wilentz said Maher's arrest and on a U.S. security watch list. The RCMP has acknowledged Maher's arrest was made in a bid to clear his name, but it seems U.S. officials

are not open to a proceeding more slowly than expected, raising questions about the depth of the conspiracy theories. Not the least of which is that Maher was not a regular soldier.

TIME MARCHES ON

Time magazine decided to award its Person of the Year distinction to "you" this year, marking a low point for the venerable franchise. Not only did it miss the cultural shift brought on by the Internet age but at least a year, it overlooked many other potentially worthy contenders, from Doris, Barack and Michelle Obama, to Pope Benedict XVI and Vladimir Putin. Where do you go once you've named "everybody" the person of the year? Time is on the brink of a rebirth and a shift to new weekend delivery, following a move made by Blackwell this year. We wish this well and look forward to seeing Time regain the status of a serious newsweek.

I WANT A NEW DRUG

It was another tough week for a glutton of the drug business. Eli Lilly is finding out accusations that it covered up information on side effects of its top-selling schizophrenia medicine, Zyprexa. The company was also forced to drop suggestions that it illegally prevented off-label use of its unapproved drug. The controversy is set back for Lilly as it deals with thousands of lawsuits from Zyprexa users who experienced massive weight gain, among other side effects, and it came just a few weeks after Pfizer was forced to stop development of a highly anticipated drug, because of evidence that patients were dying at alarmingly high rates. Dagnall's high heels just won't go away. ■

RIM SHOTS

It's been a hard week for Jim Balsillie, the chairman and CEO of Research In Motion Ltd., the Waterloo, Ont.-based maker of BlackBerry email devices. Balsillie withdrew his offer to buy the Pittsburgh Penguins, ostensibly because the NHL refuses to let him move the team. But Balsillie may be facing bigger problems: RIM announced that an internal investigation into the possible manipulation of

CAPITAL DIARY

MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON KEN DRYDEN'S CHRISTMAS CIRCUS ACT & ELIZABETH MAY'S TRASHY WREATHS



RUBY DHALLA: Whip it

A COOR IN HIS FIRST MP STOCKING?

This Christmas, Liberal MP Ken Dryden will be bringing a big splash of relief. The 50-year-old former hockey legend put under his tree or his daughter on his shoulder every Christmas in order to place an angel at the top of the tree. (The Dryden offspring alternates years.) "Our son is 16 now, he weighs as much as I do," says Dryden. "But the tradition has to go on. Last year I still put him on my shoulder. This year is our daughter's turn—it's always a break every second year." But Dryden's daughter is also under the pressure: her due date is Dec. 22, so she'll be so lousy this year. Dryden says the child-killing tradition will hopefully soon switch to the grandchildren.

For some parliamentarians, though, certain Christmas traditions never change. For 40 years, NDP MP Dawn Black has been strutting stockings for her children. "Sometimes it's awkward, when I think I need to improve their culinary skills," says the British Columbia NDP MP Paul Dewar. (Dawn's Centre will pass a stocking from his mother, Marlene Dewar, a former mayor of

Ottawa and outpouring activist. "This year's my first MP stocking," says Dewar. "It will be interesting to see what will be in it. Maybe a couple of Christmas cards with corrections in return." I guess that he would have liked to see me deliver in a different way. She certainly keeps me on my toes. I'm also expecting a few gifts and a couple of his wife's repeated comments on his wardrobe and hair.

Jean-Pierre Blackburn, the minister of labour and member of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Region of Quebec, says his wife spent these days each Christmas wrapping individual branches of a birch tree with various bannings and then decorating them with traditional Christmas lights. "Every year she says it's the last year, but she always does it."

Even though the Liberal, Liberal MP Ruby Dhalla (Toronto-Springdale) always celebrates Christmas because of a French Canadian strain. Each year, Dhalla is the go-to person for wrapping. "I like in high school, the worked in the fire

department at Eaton's during the Christmas season, when she learned how to wrap the perfect gift. There's never any surprises for this MP on Christmas—her family gives her her own presents to wrap.

NOT-60-SHOCK SANTA NOW

Santa Claus makes a couple of special appearances every year in Nova Scotia. Peter Dinkler, the MP for Citadel-Lebanon-Sherbrooke, is in charge of the Santa Claus Parade in his home town. He's also a Santa Claus. I go around to all the houses on our street just after midnight with these handbills. We go underneath the kids' windows and say, "Merry Christmas, I wonder if Julie and Scott have been good kids this year?" Then you see a little light go on and we say, "Merry Christmas, if that's all you want." I like to see the snow on the roof and if the par-

ent has previously set up a ladder, we'll make little Santa Claus around the chimney." Dinkler explains that he's been doing this ever since he moved to Nova Scotia, but "I got the idea when I lived in the States because my neighbour did it."

HONEY, IS THAT ELIZABETH MAY GOING THROUGH OUR GARAGE?

Green Party Leader Elizabeth May has her Christmas bash every year on Jan. 6, Spanghorne. She says people are just too busy in December and it's also very ecological because I can collect the various wreaths and things that have been picked by neighbours and use them to decorate my place. At midnight, the red her guests underneath her tree and draw it out this day. Say May. "It takes the annual sadness of us-decorating the tree and makes it a festive event." ■



ON THE WEB: For more Ottawa news and to contact Mitchell Raphael, visit www.ottawacitizen.ca/mitchraphael



PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHELLE BARNETT

PETER STOFFER (left), Elizabeth May (right), "New Year" Jean-Pierre Blackburn (top)

The best of the year: Sunshine, happiness and nerds



PAUL WELLS

Here's *The Cool List 2006*, an annual concept born on my blog, now interesting to print: to acknowledge some of the year's highlights. At first it was mostly a list of jazz CDs, with some other stuff thrown in. By now the whole thing has completely escaped consideration of genre or medium. It's simply a nod to what remains of the year, or should, potential readers you'll check some of these things out if you missed them the first time around.

6. *Little Miss Sunshine*. No movie this year had more heart or richer comic characters than Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris's tale of seven-year-old Olive Hoover (Abigail Breslin) and her bizarre family's attempt to get her to a child-beauty pageant in California. The cast, led by Greg Kinnear, Alan Arkin and Steve Carell, is flawless. Their characters, especially Kinnear's faded motivational speaker and Arkin's truckle old grand father ("I'll say what I want, I'll tell you bullsh*t to my son") are based but, in the end, oddly beautiful. Little Miss Sunshine is a quirky little gem, but it's genuinely touching with love for its characters. I couldn't watch another movie for weeks after I saw it.

3. *Boyz and Girls in America*. You take the spirit of rock and roll where you can find it. This year it was Soulé, in its most potent form, in the third album from the Hold Steady, a Brooklyn bar band made up of Minneapolis refugees. Singer Craig Thorn has dumpy guy with glasses, not that there's anything wrong with that. The band's keyboard looks like Super Mario from the old video game. Their songs are jubilantly raucous and to the point and angry yet, the lyrics are thoughtful with resource, substance and beauty. Lost in love and fog and faithless far / I've had kisses that made Judas seem sincere.

1. *Drunk Crap* by James Beaulieu. And they

thought blond hair was going to be a problem.

4. *How Happy To Be*. It's good to find more and more people coming up with Toronto-area journalist Kerrie Oswald's debut novel, which did not get nearly enough attention at the beginning of the year. Of course there's autobiographical in Oswald's tale of a party-girl film critic who finally decides to grow up. But above all there's Oswald's voice, always present even in her reviews and bell-clear in her fiction: hip, wary, dignified, honest.

5. *Nagano de Montreal*. Toronto got a new open house and the reviews were all

fine. Williams in the old Miles Davis quartet choppy, aggressive, daring in and out of the music's complex structures. On *Beyond the Walk*, by the also unimpressive Kenny Garrett, Blake is more like Elvin Jones in the classic John Coltrane quartet: rolling, thunderous, almost as inevitable as the notes. A lot of jazz got released this year that nobody needs to bother listening to. But on two of the year's essential releases, Brian Blade is essential.

7. *Revenge of the Nerds*. Canadian politics in 2006 began in January with Stephen Harper defeating a former juggernaut and



No movie had more heart than this tale of a bizarre family and a child beauty pageant

family glowing. The Orchestre symphonique de Montreal got a new artistic director—and nobody's quite sure what to make of him yet. Kent Nagano, the wilson Japanese-Californian, is still too young, and his new brand too fresh from a rough half-decade, for anyone to want to sit on their hands. So Nagano has turned his tenure in Montreal into an experiment. His first concert featured a "symphony" from an obscure Russian composer played by only four instruments, and a Ninth Symphony from Beethoven played at startlingly brisk tempos. He favours odd juxtapositions of music and programs, he's commissioning new music, he's a keen student of Quebec history. If his predecessor, Charles Dutoit, ran the OSN like a Cadillac, Nagano prefers to run a small scientist's lab. It's exhilarating.

6. *Brian Blade*. Two exceedingly fine jazz albums this year had little in common except incidental performances by the 35-year-old drummer, the Louisiana-born son of a Baptist preacher. On *Democracy*, by the pianist Kenny Werner, Blade plays something like

ended in December with Stéphane Dixon, having a field in which he most seemed a legitimate addition. These variations are misguided. Harper is an electoral anomaly first. Then a student of public administration. Not all of these variations are dancing. Each man needs to work on his temper. Both occasionally let hostility particularly slide into something darker. But both are, on their best days, unusually decent men, comfortable stating their policies clearly, aware in the knowledge not everyone will agree with them.

With the rest of these two men—and the complicating presence of Jack Layton, Gilles Duceppe and the new Green leader, Elinor Clark May—it's possible to hope this country is going to get its politics back, that our national conversation might, for a while, be more about real things than it's been.

Probably it's too much to hope. But if you can't person yourself some hope in the end of the year, who can?

ON THE WEB: For more Paul Wells visit his blog at www.montreal.com/ledevelo

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The Power.



China liked snitches. Now we do too.



BARBARA AMIEL

I didn't remember snitches at school but my husband did. After an interrogation given to the school by his headmaster, he wrote something very rude in response on the notice board and was caught by a classmate, then

caught and suspended. The classmate later accused him of going to the school for aggressive questioning, he broke down. My husband understood—he had faced some aggressive questioning by the same headmaster himself. At the same time, schoolboys madly snitched reported the snitch as a pretty sorry sort. We all did, and this attitude to rule-of-life snitching, as the word implies, was viewed as a breach of certain loyalty to the group to which you belonged, including classmates, co-workers and friends.

But that was then and this is now. Today the snitch is the moral line to be crossed, but the righteous person to be rewarded. There is legislation protecting the snitch, there are special arrangements—"whistle-blowers" telephone lines for adults and children, so the snitch can snitch anonymously, thus avoiding any consequence of not just snitching but lying. And there will call on for the neighbour you dislike: investigation or the company that denied you a promotion turned upside down. Unlike the title-tale of previous decades, who usually snatched snitch-fidelity about a specific event that had an ambiguously take place, the contemporary version can very easily make up false accounts, and often does.

The era of the revolution, which is my view launched the 21st century in much of the Western world, was a natural progression from the previous century. Having regulated and centralized much human behaviour during the latter 19th century, we created fierce circumstances for people to regard themselves as victims.

Men who simply stood at women (even when swimming underwater wearing goggles, as in the 1980 case at the University of Toronto's Blue House swimming pool), could be accused of sexual harassment with serious consequences. An employer who hired anyone who was not a member of a protected group (African male, female, racially challenged, physically challenged, transgender) could find themselves investigated for bias in the event someone "told" on them. As vice-president of the University of Chicago, Cardinal Bernardini of Chicago ordered a university-wide harassment of students, those who were accused of sexual harassment. There are, in it, believed by some who have looked seriously into this matter, numbers of innocent people in prison today, apparently accused of suspicion or child molestation.

Nowadays you can't move outdoors without swarming over a victim. Snitches are victims of Tag Team, victims of team fates, the unfortunate of the iniquity of power, the unhappy family of the iniquity of life. Actually, you can't put a foot inside your own back either. Your children may be victims of emotional abuse should you discipline them by

snitch with which you snitch and ready just as in a self-reliant society it will depend upon the snitch with which you snitch.

There are common accusations, naturally. If you come upon an obvious crime, you call 911 for instance. No one person could regard this as "snitching." Seeing a child sexually molested or set upon by half a dozen bullies at school, watching a co-worker steal money from the company or a desk mate's briefcase, is not something to clam up about. But ethnic jokes in the workplace can be greeted or dealt with by snitching. When a child from a single step on the



The ancient expression 'honour among thieves' presumed some fellowship. No more.

withdrawing extracurricular activities or confining them to their room. Which is not to say there aren't genuine victims, only that many so-called are not.

Furthermore, our civilisation has the lowest security whereby if a woman is snatched from a restaurant, how much more likely is it to have female guards risk rape in Canada's prisons or—in the case in the United Kingdom—to have round your hospital wards? Homophobia is legally prohibited, but I'd be surprised if a bisexual manifestation of a (or a Muslim student organization for example) would be treated as severely as a Christian group's.

For Canadians, the race is in two parts and that relationship is rapidly regressing all others. If a snitching became a branch of the civil service, it was assumed that individuals owed their loyalty to whatever position or group permitted them to obtain a certain bit of knowledge. One could safely confide in family and professionals. The ancient expression "honour among thieves" presumed some fellowship. No more. Loyalty is owed to the sovereign state, which will compensate your government. The only trouble is, when you turn to the authorities to protect you, in all areas of life, your rewards will depend on the

playground, it seems preferable to stop back or carry on rather than go to teacher. In this century both restaurants would be labelled primitive anti-social behaviour.

In the old Soviet Union there were no statues named to Lenin Pavel Morozov, the hero-child who denounced his own father. The Soviet Union, China and Nazi Germany made snitching a high moral accomplishment. I suppose there are many ways of setting up a society, and one's preference has a certain aesthetic element: do you find a fighting back society more attractive than a winning, something one?

Canada didn't snitch on her neighbours. When took on his fury on all Philistines—he did it snitch up on Delilah. The world of epic heroes and folk tales prizes those who either fought well or outwitted, and those who snatched successfully in our regulatory society, one that denies the whole blows, I think both aesthetics and moral values are today sorry. For my money, this is a departure from our fundamental ideals and consistent only with the evolution of a slave society whose galleons and slave ships, murder, and what's worse, folk heroes, will be—snitches. ■

Barbara Amiel is a Maclean's regular columnist.

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Your kids say, "That's the way they look on TV," and it's not a scuzzy show, but they still end up looking like hookers'

CELIA RIVENBARK, COLUMNIST AND AUTHOR OF 'STOP DRESSING YOUR SIX-YEAR-OLD LIKE A SKANK,' TALKS TO KENNETH WYTHE

Q I understand *Stop Dressing Your Six-Year-Old Like a Skank* began as a news paper column. What did you want it in the first place?

A: Well, I went shopping with my daughter, and I saw all these tween slank clothes, and one thing led to another. I just went off on the town and these clothes are outrageous, these horrible crims! Las Vegas show girl clothes that kids who are young as seven. These kids are in the store, asking retail if they're in fashion, shirts saying things like *Just Bitch*, *Made Ya Look* or *Jury on the Bottoms of the Pants*. Pretty disgusting.

Q: The salesperson seemed to agree with you that these clothes were inappropriate for the age group, but said everyone was buying them anyway.

A: Well, yeah, I think that's what's a style. Obviously the staff sells because the moms are full of it. Parents buy. They feel a lot of pressure—parental pressure—who wants all the time—to appease the kids by giving them what they want, so I think that's why so many parents just finally give in. They feel like this is a battle they don't want to fight.

Q: What do you think is driving this trend? Is it the kids and their taste, or is it what's coming out of the fashion houses or from manufacturers? Or do some parents want to dress their kids that way?

A: Well, I think that the kids see these scuzz

of clothes on TV. I'll give you an example. There's a real popular movie that my daughter and her friends watched, *The Glee Club*. I don't know if you've ever seen *The Glee Club*, but that's the sort of clothes they wear. You know, they're spilling out of the top, they're pulling out the bottoms, torn stockings and patchy collars, but it's all very Disney at the same time. It's all very cute and hip, and so you sort of are almost led to believe, "Well, this must be normal. It's a cute Disney movie with not so little girls that are dressed like that." Your kids say, "Well, that's the way they dress on TV," and it's not a scuzzier, scuzzier show, and they're not slanky people, but they still end up looking like little hookers.

Q: But do the kids have a point? Is it harmful for them to just fashion?

A: In their minds it's just fashion, in my mind as a parent it's not harmless. I don't think it's harmless to wear a garter belt hanging off the shoulder when you're seven years old. I think that's just ridiculous, and borders on obscene. I'm a humor columnist by trade and this is probably the most disgusting thing I've ever written. I don't normally get so agitated over things, but this one, I'm just shocked about it.

Q: What kind of response did you get to the column when you wrote it?

A: Oh, a lot. I had more mail on that rub than I did on all 10 years of column writing. Q: And did the mail go to one direction? A: Pretty much, yeah. There's a lot of letters

and dads out there who obviously agree. I think sometimes, as parents, we get so can dissatisfied to what we see in the store's slank like you get much to it, and so this was for some parents, they read, a lot of a wide-up call, you know? If you're used to seeing ripped jeans and some questionable phrases on kid clothes, you'll find it. Especially when you see it in really cute department stores. You think, this is when they're selling and you almost get used to it and can't wait to accept it. I've seen a pretty, young teen, but I just don't think there's any way you could possibly say that these kinds of clothes are suitable for anybody under 16, say 14.

Q: Do you think the kids are conscious of the meaning of what they're wearing? Does the fashion come with attitudes and behaviors?

A: That's a real good question. I haven't seen a correlation there. I think they just think it all looks cute. I don't see that it particularly changes their personalities. They think, "This is hip, I see it on TV, this is in kind of cool." It doesn't turn them into monsters. I'm more concerned about the perv who sees them at the mall. A little girl, if her parent is what enough to buy something that says *Just Bitch* or goes to the mall—let's be the perv who sees that that bothers me.

Q: Right, so some guy who sees it on television.

A: Oh, yeah, because they're not there. But again, I don't blame the kid, I blame the parent for buying.

Q: Are the clothes an anomaly or are they

part and parcel of youth culture these days? I mean, we've got Ses and the City on TV on prime time when I live. The lyrics are popular music get more crude and explicit all the time, and dancing to, not just about every sort of society aside from rap stars.

A: Yeah, that's it. My daughter loved Justin Timberlake when he was in *N'Sync*, and when he started out on his own I thought Justin Timberlake was pretty talented, but now he seems to have to hang—I think it's called *Justi*—and he'll be all but his sex right there spilling out of the CD players, all the sounds and whatever, and I'm like, "You can't listen to this. It's completely inappropriate."

Q: How did are you?

A: Oh, well, you and I were out and around during the show, and we had *Donna* there. Love to Love You Baby, and stuff like that. A: Yes, but I was 21! I was a year older. Q: I was 25 or 26 and I was all over the radio and everyone was listening to it. You think it's aimed at a younger and younger audience?

A: I certainly do. The stuff that my daughter says and hears at school—I listen to her and my jaw drops because it's stuff that we didn't get into until we were in junior high, and she's in fourth grade.

Q: So you've mentioned that parents seem to be reluctant to push fights on the slank issue. Are parents reluctant to pick fights along a whole range of issues and behaviors?

A: Yeah, generally speaking, for whatever reason, kids tend to run over their parents a lot more than they used to. The whole child-oriented thing is really big now. I see it over and over again just among the things I hear the child makes the decisions on, for example, what kind of entertainment they watch, what they do on Friday night. Sometimes they need to realize that. But I think that when the kids are running the show it's not really a good thing. There are lots of kids, and if you give them that much power they're not ready for it.

Q: You've talked about how of course we've seen more than I was out at Halloween last year and I heard a 13-year-old girl say, "You anybody could hear her about her costume, 'I'm dressed as a slut.' I made a story last week where some company was making a stripper's pole for the kids' Christmas market."

A: I think I read something about that. Wouldn't be the great exercise, or some thing? Q: Yeah, that's right.

A: It's pretty sad.

Q: Don't do you get put back in the battle? A: It goes back to the child centered household. We've lost the notion, as parents, that it's really okay to be the grown up and say no

My daughter hears me all the time—occasionally she hears me, but a lot of no. There was a dress she wanted a couple of months ago, and she had some red hair on it, and I thought the dress was inappropriate, and we all sort of said, "Parents almost think that it's in their contract that they have to negotiate. Well, no, they really don't. Some things, maybe, but not everything. If your kid is trying to go out of the house looking like a prostitute, then you just send the kid right back in there and try again."

Q: You live in North Carolina. I still have images in my head of the South—probably inevitably outdated—on being a little bit more formal in manners and dress than the rest of the country. Is that idea of the good Southern boy or girl completely gone?

A: It depends. I live in Wilmington, a beach community, so there's not a whole lot of formal, but generally speaking you're right—the South is the last bastion of junior uniforms and that sort of thing, and everyone claims to be little girls and little boys. The joke is that by the time a little Southern girl sees some girl she's already picked out her hair color pattern, you know? So we do believe in a certain amount of formality. I guess maybe that's why it's been kind of a shock to the system to me, because there are very few alternatives to the slank clothes even in the South, which has been traditionally conservative in most ways. I go to the very nice South side department store where I dressed as a child—the place your parents took you and held your hand and you picked out your Easter dresses—and now you go to that very same department store and it's all slank.

Q: How much responsibility does *Papa* have for all that?

A: Oh, the obvious! I don't know in all fairness, I don't think kids really notice. Kids so much, on the kids that are the age group I'm talking about, the parents. They notice more. And I've seen the folks who have more casual careers.

Q: *Arrested* is one of my favorite Canadian A: I did know that.

Q: ...and *Nelly Furtado* too. What's Nelly's song, *Promiscuous*, I think?

A: Yeah, that's not that good?

Q: I guess we're a leading exporter of slank music.

A: Well, I've thought, Yeah, that song will come on my daughter's favorite radio station and I'm like, "No," and I turn it off.

Q: You turn off the radio? A: Oh yeah, when that comes on I do. I don't think it's appropriate for a nine-year-old kid to be arguing about how promiscuous the music is. I mean, I don't even know if he knows what that word means, but it's not a little early for that, you know? Obviously, I'm a realist. I know when the time is 13, 14, 15 and she lives with an iPad glued to her ears, I understand that's inevitable, but that's nice, barely nice—she doesn't need to be singing about how promiscuous she is.

Q: As a newspaper writer, you must notice that it's either annual when a piece like your slank piece gets written. I noticed a similar column a week or two ago on the New York Times. I noticed it was like a slanting column



It doesn't turn them into monsters—I'm more concerned about the perv who sees them at the mall'

A: That's he'd seen in *Afternoon* or *Fitch* leaving a dress, something like, "Who made a look when you're gay?" Obviously that needs to stand out because we don't hear a lot of expression in mainstream media these days. Why is that?

A: Maybe that's because they're scared of offending subscribers. I hate to think it, because I've been in newspapers since I was 16 years old and I love newspaper work, but to be honest with you, the department stores I'm talking about are the ones that advertise in mine, 10 papers. So how angry do we want to go?

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LARRY FROST, MONTROVIA, CALIF.



INTRODUCING: Grand Kennedy at the leadership convention, at which Trudeau got a lot of coverage—as I suspected I would

HIS SECRET'S OUT

Justin Trudeau has decided to run for a seat in the next election

BY NICHOLAS KÖBLER • About a week and a half after his phone, Dean's Liberal leader ship was, Gerald Burns, right-hand man to the new Premier Dalton McGuinty, put a call through to his old friend, Justin Trudeau. The perked first met at McGill University, studying literature and spending on the doctri- ing team. It was Burns, years later, who had helped write the eulogy Trudeau delivered at his father's funeral—a performance that triggered widespread talk among Liberals

of it being becoming the daughter. And it was Burns who, at Queen's Park, first introduced Trudeau to then-Ontario education minister Gordon Kennedy, the leadership contender Trudeau would endorse, backing him with his first person job, before following him across the convention-room floor to a triumph-ant Dion.

Now Burns was calling Trudeau to a bar of a party. During an impromptu telephone interview, Trudeau had turned to Macdonald's he'd made up his mind to run for a seat in the House of Commons in the next gen-eral election. With a while, he said. He would make an announcement after Christmas. Macdonald's say more. He'd stand proof too

much. But, Trudeau's closest political con-fidant, knew nothing of it. Indeed, he'd been warning the ones in just days earlier that Trudeau would not run. Now Burns wasn't so sure. Trudeau's performance in the country two—glad following with abandon, suffering criticism and hot photo sessions with smirking Liberals—suggested something new. “He crossed the line. He got into the next level,” one Liberal says. “He talked back and he was a Liberal.” And so that point, you either get the bug—or you don’t.

Approaching his 36th birthday (he was born Christmas Day, 1971), Trudeau looked increasingly bugger—though if he'd made his decision, he'd done so without his usual

causal, Burn asked, and was free-lin- ing. Was it true, Burn asked as the phone— would he run? Trudeau said he would. With an exception of his decision, Macdonald sent a formal interview request to Trudeau, who will handle his own public relations (and a rumoured command as much as \$15,000 per speaking engagement).

“Listen,” Trudeau replied. “I haven’t actually made any decision yet, so I don’t know what you could be running with at this point.” He added, “You guys can do what you like, obviously, but right now there just isn’t anything more than rumour and speculation.”

Burn, talked with taking control of the decision, followed up with a phone call: two hours later. “He doesn’t want a lot of publicity around this until he’s made up his mind,” he said. “Off the record, I think he’s pretty much there.” But Trudeau, Burn said, wanted to discuss the timing of his announcement with Dion to make sure it complemented party strategy. This would take time. “He just doesn’t want a speculative story published before he’s ready,” said Burns.

Trudeau, long the centre of speculation, was finally de- cided. But he wasn’t finished playing any. Not yet, anyone typically not after the most politically charged month of his life, these words before the convention when he’d first stepped from the realm of mere possibility to carry out something concrete—indeed, just Kennedy taking a shot at Michael Ignatieff. Trudeau, the political star whose wedding and wedding had merged into a bold advance upon the leadership by the time of the convention, was re-emerging, two an old game. He was playing hard to get.

Sure, Trudeau had a lot on his mind. His marriage—to television personality Sophie Grégoire—was just a year and a half old. The couple was thinking of children. And, anyway, the convention had left him feeling “over- exposed,” he said. The day after the final ball delivered the lead to either Dion, Trudeau and Sophie had married for her second time—Adele and a family dinner. He was back up there in the Commons, with people he could trust. Down in the world of poli- tics, he said, “The people who love me are just an embarrassment to the people who hate me—because they don’t know me.” Yet all that love and hate created a media circus Trudeau could harness and redirect toward Kennedy, his candidate. “I got a lot of cov- erage—as I suspected I would,” said Trudeau.

Indeed. During the convention the night of the great ghost of the Liberal party, Pierre El- der, Trudeau had, as one newspaper reporter wrote, “been [and] every camera angle that cap- tures the net so well known face leadership candidate Grand Kennedy.” Earlier, too, Trudeau had made pronouncements. “The

IN POLITICS, ‘THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE ME ARE AS UNTRUSTWORTHY AS THE PEOPLE WHO HATE ME’



TRUDEAU WITH (top to bottom) Dion, Kennedy and Martin

debate—reminding Quebec’s status in Can- ada recalled the un-aided, unforgotten notion of the 1980s, he said. It was also at Ignatieff, who introduced the new- the comments would get more pointed and in a TV interview, Trudeau, a high school teacher named McGill graduate student in environmental geography, and at Ignatieff— a man 15 years his senior who’d left a posi- tion at Harvard University to become an MP.

“He perhaps has a little more, but he perhaps doesn’t have the necessary wisdom.”

Dean’s camp, in essence, was held with growing interest. Trudeau, a leader to any candidate, was well known. He wouldn’t take sides in the race. At least of a Liberal’s you’d rank force, he’d already run each candidate. Soon, he appeared to be deciding the fed-erates Dion had progressed a made be- fore, as Joan Chelmon’s minister of inter- governmental affairs. Dion’s camp arranged for a meeting with him at the Hilton Met-ropolitan. Dion’s camp.

But it was not to be. While Trudeau kept talking up both Dion and Kennedy in media appearances, it was to the latter—the man he’d met through Burns—that he gravitated. “I wasn’t play- ing on supporting any- one,” he told Macdonald. “I

was happy to step back. Then I realized we needed genuine renewal and I had an opportunity to help out that voice of some- one I truly believed in.” It’s hard to know how Kennedy staged the prize. Dion had ousted on Stephen Harper’s motion in the House of Commons recognizing Que- bec’s status in forming “a nation within a unit- ed Canada,” Trudeau’s support. “I suspect the fact that the nation question came up,” Kennedy told Macdonald—say- ing the word in French—“might have made him more interested. But that was not a focal point of our decision.”

Soon, the Kennedy team had written its Trudeau lyrics. “My interest in hav- ing him involved was as the Justin, not as the Trudeau,” Kennedy told Macdonald’s New York Times, a young MP who was a key figure in the Kennedy camp, again.

“I think, you know, it was Justin who really emerged—not the Trudeau side of it.” Nor was it a vice, or a sound bite, that escaped Trudeau himself. Kennedy, he said, “didn’t” was the Trudeau on his team—he wanted the justice. “Yet, as Burns point out, Trudeau ‘recognizes that he has certain ambi- tions and one of them is name recognition.’ Kennedy’s team missed that time and only— abundantly, even. A convention crowd two- thirds? Send in the Trudeau. A television atmosphere? Dispatch the Trudeau. A screen



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NATIONAL



KENNEDY'S TEAM pulled his name cheerlessly. A crowd too strong? Seated in the Trudeau

of photographers snapping at the candidate? Make sure the Trudeau, looking intense, is hovering above Kennedy's shoulder.

There's no doubt that, in the final days, Trudeau made substantive contributions to Kennedy's leadership bid. "He was just a machine in terms of wading through delegates and making the case for Gerald," says one Liberal insider. Kennedy says his role was that of "coordinator," spinning communications, delegating outreach and even helping write Kennedy's speech, arguably the best at the convention. "I think his interest is genuine. I think he did it at some personal cost," Kennedy says. That's equally no doubt that Trudeau connects with Liberals. "It's a person of very considerable charisma and energy," says convention co-chair and MP Dominic LeBlanc, himself the son of a government insider, former governor general Romeo LeBlanc. "His energy and his dynamism are self-evident—they inspire groups of people, motivate Liberal workers." Trudeau also motivated Kennedy's team to expend considerable energy heading him at the convention. Kennedy's spokeswoman, Annabelle Alvares, spent much of the convention accompanying not the candidate but the Trudeau. It was with Alvares at his side that, snapping by Dean's head quarters on the night of Paul Martin's flawed speech, he met a pile of *Maclean's* reporters. "Where did you come from?" asked one, engaged on what he thought was just light banter. Trudeau smiled—playfully. "I live in Montreal," he said. No, the reporter pressed—what street did you just arrive from? Trudeau equivocated. "It's not a trick question," the other reporter pressed. Trudeau demurred. He'd have to get his PR representative involved, he mused, waving Alvares to the huddle. "These guys are trying to find out if I was at the Paul Martin thing," Trudeau

said, his finger wagging. Alvares shook her head. "No," she said, "Justin Trudeau did not attend the Paul Martin speech." Her singing tone suggested sometime dreams of an absurdity.

No renewal—his great convention battle cry—doesn't appear to include rapprochement with Martin, great-nephew of Chrétien, his father's enemy. Such grudges are part of partisan politics. But how will Trudeau, newly unshackled by his father's team's blarney, fare in the gritty-gritty of politics, with which he has little experience? Party insiders grip about possible ridings. "If you're going to run Justin Trudeau, you problems will want to be sure you're going correct," said one Liberal organizer. There's Paul Martin's LaSalle-Estrie electoral district, Duncanson, used to be occupied by Jean Lesage, and while it's long since left Jean's Le Bon's name, history Liberal constituency in west Montreal, now lost to the Bloc and even Vancouver-Kingway, seat of Liberal-turned-Conservative cabinet minister David Emerson.

And when will Trudeau, once he arrives in that wintry world of Parliament's costly

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HOW TO WIN THE WAR

Canadian efforts in Afghanistan shift into reconstruction mode

BY JOHN GEORGE • In the fight for attention back home, Canada's provincial reconstruction team in Kandahar is losing badly—and it's not hard to see why. The PRT, which is struggling to help rebuild the economy in the violent southern Afghanistan province, strap against the war itself. When it comes to vying for TV time and front-page treatment, what chance does digging irrigation ditches and paving roads have against the latest bloody suicide bombing or grizzly battle? Yet in 2007, the job that didn't do itself: Canada's engagement in Afghanistan could turn on the federal government's success or failure in shifting at least some of the focus from devastation to development. As Prime Minister Stephen Harper battles for a possible spring election, he needs voters to see a glimmer of hope beyond reports of carnage from Canada's biggest gamble on the world stage.

More than anyone else, Lt.-Col. Steven Hetherington bears the burden of delivering those signs of progress from embedded Kandahar city. As the PRT leader there, he oversees the work of 530 Canadian Forces personnel and a handful of officials from Foreign Affairs, the Canadian International Development Agency and the RCMP. The idea behind the PRT is to deploy task troops to development projects, allowing them to work in areas ahead of even the most advanced military units. But the team's impact has outweighed praise.

Opposition politicians blame the government for underestimating its—making combat, not reconstruction, the real mission in Kandahar. Beyond the Canadian debate, some international observers contend the PRTs—there are 14 in Afghanistan run by 12 countries—have generally failed to live up to expectations in the face of the Taliban insurgency. But in an interview with Maclean's, Hetherington pointed a picture of how 2007 might provide a far more upbeat story.

He says by noting that Canada's PRT has recently acquired some badly needed supplies. About 130 troops from the Royal 22nd Regiment, based in Valcartier, Que., arrived on Dec. 4 to join the recently so-called "force protection element." Consisting of light armoured vehicles, the Yr 200s will guard



WITH 120 NEW TROOPS, THE PRT ADDS SOME MUCH-NEEDED MUSCLE



A CANADIAN Chinook helicopter delivers supplies (top). Hetherington (below, centre) is heading up the PRT.

PRT members when they return out of their compounds to work in Kandahar's impoverished, still-rural villages. Previously, the PRTs had focused on building out a network of lighting and security in the province, and so was often stuck in its compound. Hetherington had no bug for troops from the Canadian battle group in Kandahar, who were often tied up with hard fighting against the Taliban. Gaining his own security contingent, he says, "will allow us to reach out further than we've been able to in the past."

Teams of engineers also joined the PRT for the first time through the fall, which should allow it to take on more planning of construction projects. A key focus: building streets

and checkpoints on roads for the expanding Afghan national police. Training and equipping those police and getting them established as a permanent presence in Kandahar's often isolated villages is a preoccupation for the PRT. "The first and only contact many Afghans are going to have with their government is their local Afghan police officer," Hetherington says. "If that contact isn't good,

This is Diane and Bill.



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A photograph showing a soldier in camouflage uniform in the foreground, holding a camera up to take a picture. In the background, a group of men are standing outdoors. One man is wearing a military uniform, while the others are in civilian clothing. The scene appears to be in a public or semi-public area.

Still, relieving the Kandahar story remains one of its biggest challenges. Polls show declining popular support for withdrawing in Afghanistan, with 61 per cent of Canadians opposed to our troops fighting there in a Dec. 1 opinion survey by the Strategic Council, up from 53 per cent in October. These numbers are unquestionably driven by these 56 Canadian troops and one civilian killed in Afghanistan in 2006. And if 2007 recapitulates last fall of casualties, it's doubtful any amount of good work by the PST will be able to turn opinion around before voters are called to the polls that matter. ■

UPSCALE CRACK

Oil workers and bankers are its new victims, not the down-and-out

BY ALEXANDRA BRIMO • While working as an engineer in Alberta's oil and gas fields, Brent, 34 (he requested that his last name not be used), started smoking crack. Like most of those who use the drug, he had already experimented with other drugs—alcohol and marijuana. But after just a few short puffs of the white drug-laced smoke, he had a very expensive and destructive habit.

Crack is made by adding acetone to boiling soda and water, creating a red coating the mixture until it dries. Although there is a reputation for being a cheap high for the down-and-out, the risk is increasingly different, say drug counsellors across the country. The illicit substance is becoming the drug of choice across social elites, says Jodi Deligdis, a substance abuse therapist at Sunrise House Drug & Alcohol Treatment Centre in Calgary. Deligdis has treated bankers, oil workers and CEOs with crack addiction problems. "I used to work at Mann and Mannings in Vancouver, but I've never seen anything like this. I never thought I'd become affiliated with crack addiction."

Brent is typical of this new class of addict. Like many users, he learned through word of mouth to smoke. Although the exact amount is hard to estimate—he told his wife he had bought a bag of crack on hotel rooms alone to fund drug-fueled games—the figure is at least \$250,000, which makes the reentering of the white and/or purple powder-laced smoke in 2007 "a total disaster for the province we're juggling with," he says nostalgically. "They were good guys from middle-class homes. Some of them were still going to high school."

The latest statistics, while they don't distinguish between crack and cocaine, do provide some support for the claim that crack is becoming a drug of choice for the wealthy. More than 34 per cent of cocaine and crack users in 2007 were in the top 10 per cent of the population.

According to the Canadian Addiction Survey published in March 2009, in Alberta, 12.1 per cent of those surveyed had used it.

Brent never found it hard to get hold of the drug. Indeed, for upscale addicts, door-to-door delivery is more common than using a crack house, he says. Part of its growing popularity is its accessibility, says Melissa Amling, an administrator at Sunshine Coast Health Centre, a private facility in Powell River, 120 km north of Vancouver that treats drug addicts and alcoholics from across North America. In most Canadian cities, buying crack is almost as easy as put-

ting on the market. "We don't know why."

One neighbourhood that has begun to bear the brunt of this glut is Toronto's Kensington Market. It's home to artists and hipsters such as CBC Radio host Sook Yeh Lee, but also to a mix of crack and heroin addicts, crime scenes and businesses. The problem surfaced in the spring, a season that brought out the summer, and is still pretty bad, says Eric Yule, chair of the Kensington Market Emergency Safety Task Force, which was set up in September to respond to the issue. Some local shops and businesses say their sales fell between 50 and 70 per cent. Pretty much increased—breaking and entering have spiked 16 per cent since the previous year. Like most neighbourhoods struggling with the consequences of cheap and plentiful crack, it's difficult for residents to know how exactly to address the problem. After



A HUNTER and his dead dog. Blaming the RCMP may be too late to avenge cultural losses.

IN DOWNTOWN TORONTO, "YOU CAN SCORE IT IN 5 MINUTES"



ONE COUNSELLOR never expected to see his clients with crack addiction.

the spike in burglaries, thefts and assaults, some areas of openly riding across against the dealers in case they were targeted, says James Markalyuk, an emergency doctor who lives in the area.

Niall Berger is the executive director of Cedars at Cabbie Ridge, an Vancouver Island north of Victoria, which treated Brent's addiction and helped him return to work in the oil and gas industry. Berger says that while "there is so much money and political capital looking at the business of crystal meth, crack is a much bigger issue."

When you think of the problem as a social issue, says Dr. Greer Connolly, an assistant medical director at the Homewood Health Centre in Quebec and professor of psychiatry at McMaster University. "If you go to Toronto's downtown core, you can see crack in five minutes. The problem is that it's very much in fashion at the moment. It's become popular among the younger crowd."

GOOD FRIENDS: WHERE ARE YOUR PASSPORTS?

"When you're friends, what you have a legacy of trust and goodwill built up between you, you can usually work things out. I would urge you, as I do everywhere I go in Canada, to use your friends and neighbours and family networks to get a passport and a trip out of the country," says Dr. Greer Connolly. "It's a very real possibility that a certain amount of cross-border trust and goodwill by demanding Canadian citizens get passports."



The myth of the sled dog killings

The RCMP probes a clash between native lore and white history

BY PETER HARRIS TAYLOR • When Pita Axtens was growing up in Fort Chino, now called Kuangang, on northern Quebec in the 1960s, he would walk with his family to a local lake to go fishing. It was a long way. "I always thought it was because we were poor and we couldn't afford a snow machine," he says. "But my uncle told me we had to walk because my grandfather's sled dogs had been shot. A lot of other people had their sled dogs shot, too." Today, Axtens is president of MétisKivik Corporation, an Inuit development company based in Quebec's Arctic. "I want to know who gave the orders to kill the dogs," he says.

Just last holiday that between 1970 and 1975, the Canadian government carried out a deliberate slaughter of sled dogs, allegedly to encourage natives to settle in communities of federal social programs. Although of Inuit descent, Axtens is a white man. He says he never heard a story of horror stories from Inuit about the killing of sled dogs. "In Inuit culture, our dogs were being killed."

And one elder A report from MétisKivik called it an official "extermination program" and demanded compensation. Ottawa subsequently ordered the RCMP to investigate their explosive claims.

Last month the RCMP unveiled its 220-page final report. The Metis claim their investigation is a full exoneration. Axtens and other Inuit argue it's a whitewash. The validity of native oral history is a hot issue against archival history from where government institutions. Does it matter where the truth lies when competing histories clash?

Chief superintendent Mike Woods of the RCMP says that many dogs died during the period in question, but that doesn't mean the Metis did it. "We did not find any word of evidence to support the allegation that the federal government had a plan to bring the Inuit into communities by killing their dogs," he says. "In fact, the opposite is true. We found many cases where RCMP officers were introducing sled dogs to residents."

Woods admits that there were cases where RCMP officers shot dogs, but in every instance it was because the dogs were running loose in public, or sick. In fact, the report claims far more dogs died from disease than bullets. Rabies and canine distemper were

outbreak in the North in the early 1960s. In Pangnassung, on Baffin Island, 80 per cent of the entire dog population died in a nine-month canine epidemic.

This exonerating evidence should free the RCMP from allegations it perpetrated a sled dog holocaust, says Woods. "We don't want this to become a myth that 'we got away'." In this case, he has support from academics who know its symptoms in the Inuit.

"There never was a great conspiracy to kill dogs," admits Frank Brown, a professor of social work at the University of British Columbia and a longtime Arctic researcher. "I have heard the stories, but there is no other evidence." The oral history that blames the RCMP for the decline of traditional sled dogs may be tied to broader cultural shock waves. "It was one of the most rapid periods of social change for any ethnic group in all of human history," says Brown. "Within 10 years they went from semi-nomadic life to living in modern communities with wood frame houses, electricity and automobiles."

Despite denying the conspiracy angle is unproven, Taylor is not willing to let the Metis out of the book. He cites evidence that some RCMP officers of the day were dangerously racist and violent. And the language gap between white and Inuit means many natives misinterpreted public safety ordinances requiring them to tie up their dogs as signs of a plot. "There is a reason for [the Inuit] to tell these stories. Their perceptions are valid and that is important," says Taylor, even if the specific allegations are untrue. The sled dog debate thus presents a study in opposing truths and historical myth as one resolution possible.

If there is a basic rule of oral history, says Jack Granatstein, professor emeritus of history at York University and former director of the Canadian War Museum, it's that "Old men forget and they remember selectively. Almost no one can remember dates or facts but they will always be able to tell you they hated so-and-so." This makes oral history a better source for emotion than statistics. Of course, archival history is fallible as well, he points out. Uncovering historical truth requires supporting evidence from multiple sources and an absence of political purpose, says Granatstein.

With oral history now under scrutiny, Axtens admits. "It's like they are accusing us of being liars." And yet he does not think the dogs died or that the Inuit suffered over this time. But to concede all this into a government conspiracy appears dangerous and untenable, even if it vindicates other grievances. The RCMP may have lots of apologizing to do, but not for mistreating a dog industry. ■

WORDS THAT CAN KILL

A radicalized ideology from Pakistan is threatening our troops
BY ADNAN R. KHAN

The war in Afghanistan has reached a gruesome stage. Since the late attack on Camp Tavor Grosse on March 4, 2006, which left the Canadian soldier in a medically induced coma for 30 days, Canadian troops have begun to face an enemy that seems to know no bounds in its ability to strike at its adversary. That attack, moreover, was a suicide mission: the assailant entered a village filled with armed soldiers and struck the blow with the full knowledge that he would not come out alive (he was that 14 years). But in cold military terms, that was a tactical shift: the Taliban, unlike their insurgent counterparts in the war in Iraq, weren't famous for suicide missions. Evidently, the ideology of the Taliban is changing, and along with it the brutality of their tactics.

Suicide attacks have never been the Afghan way. As some Taliban militants told McClatchy in the past, they consider suicide a cowardly act. But there's been a spike in suicide bombings in Afghanistan over the past year, with a series of attacks in Kandahar that have killed 10 Canadian soldiers and wounded more than a dozen. Imported militants were previously thought to be behind the incidents, but the tactic appears to be gaining favor among the Taliban. And that, almost certainly, indicates an intensification of militant Islamic ideology—calling oneself for a cause as much as an ideological statement as it is an act of violence.

Why is this form of radicalism, previously

alien to the Taliban, gaining ground? That is a question that Canadian Forces, who face a constant barrage of explosives-laden humans and vehicles, must ask themselves, because such an ideology is as much a danger to them as the bombings themselves. In part, the answer lies somewhere in the

unreliable Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) on the other side of the Afghan-Pakistan border. The region's inhabitants are Pashtuns, as are the people of Kandahar. Ideas flow back and forth, as do militants—Afghan President Hamid Karzai has charged that the Taliban insurgents in south-east Afghanistan are getting substantial aid from their brethren in the tribal areas. That help is both physical and ideological: here, in this borderland region, are the unexamined religious schools that have an acidic mix of tribal codes and reformed Islamic ethics into a potent mix. And it is fueling not only the current crop of insurgents, but also inspiring the minds of their youth—the next generation of fighters.

That the Taliban is placing a premium on education is evident: in some of the group's most recent announcements, one of 30 new rules signed by their exclusive leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, and distributed to commanders in September and October. These reject education directly. "It is forbidden to work as a teacher under the current [Afghan] puppet regime," one rule states. "Our Muslims should apply to study with a religiously trained teacher and study an appropriate secular curriculum. Teachers must come from the period of the jihad or from the Taliban regime."

Any teachers who defy this edict are to be first warned, then beaten and, if they fail to comply, killed. So far in 2006, 30 teachers have fallen victims to the Taliban's ideological war, while 236 schools have been destroyed.

Since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001,

opening the sorts of religious schools in Afghanistan that Omar is calling for has become difficult. But such education is readily available, for both Afghan adults and youth, in schools across the border in the tribal areas. Although Pakistani authorities have tried to

that ideology is becoming even more radical—to the point of sanctifying what was previously anathema to many Taliban fighters: suicide bombings.

In these madhouses, learning is restricted to a tribally mediated interpretation of the



THE TALIBAN USED TO SHUN SUICIDE ATTACKS, THINKING THEM COWARDLY. NOW THEY'RE ON THE RISE, AND HARMING CANADIANS.



IN BAJAJI, where 82 people at a religious school died in an air attack (above), locals show a piece of a missile.

clung down on the numbers of Afghan religious education in their country, away from ways to attract these institutions, called madrasas, where nurturing boys to spread the word through their local mosques. And these schools provide a glimpse into the ideology that is driving the Taliban, and how

Koran and the Hadith (traditions containing sayings of the Prophet Muhammad). "There's no other thing here," says Mawla Abdul Karim, the 17-year-old leader of the Hariri mosque and madrasa in Peshawar, the capital of Pakistan's newly formed North-West Frontier Province bordering the FATA. "No Islamism, no Islamism, only the Koran. So when the students leave here, that's the message they bring. That is all they know."

The Hariri mosque follows the Salafi branch of Sunni Islam, the ultra-conservative sect associated with al-Qaeda, whose rigid and literal interpretation of the Koran is often cited as the backbone of Islamic militancy. The creed first gained a foothold in the tribal areas in the 1980s, when the Saudis funded the establishment of schools that helped fuel the mujahideen struggle against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. It spread during the Afghan civil war and the subsequent Taliban era, in spite of the fact that the Taliban had banned Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, their fiercest of Islam war always much more insider and less concerned with global jihad. But since 9/11 and the subsequent NATO invasion of Afghanistan, Salafism has a gun begun to flourish. And its call for a global holy

THE PAKISTAN government is trying to crack down on the madrasas

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADNAN R. KHAN

war is now reemerging among the Pakistanis. "That is in part due to the perception that the enemy has changed. The struggle against the Soviets was interpreted as a national battle against a foreign invader. Now, however, Islam itself appears to be under attack. In the Islamic, xenophobic world of the Pakistanis, what has become about as controversial as dual options—the U.S. sponsored war on terror, the war as is, the ongoing occupation by Israel of Palestinian territories—only adds to a perception that a Judeo-Christian axis is working to destroy their religion. And the Taliban hammer home that message, in part with a violent anti-Semitism. "When I came on a passage in the Koran against Jews," says Karooni, "I translate it for the students and they explain to I tell them the Koran teaches us that Jews are the enemy of Islam."

In the madrassa, that theme of an outside war against Islam has been taken up by many of the children, even the ones who consider themselves moderate. According to them, Muslims must engage in the great jihad for the survival of Islam against a coalition of infidels. "The foreigner persecutes Afghanistan as a test from God for true Muslims," says Qari Umshatun Saedi, a 29-year-old teacher at the moderate Madris mosque in Peshawar. "Those who support the foreigners are against Islam. It is a Muslim's duty to fight them." While Saedi insists that he does not encourage his students to go and fight in Afghanistan, the logic of his teaching would leave no doubt in any student's mind as to what is the required course of action. "Jihad," he says, "is the duty of every Muslim. The war in Afghanistan is a valid jihad."

That is the new and more militant ideal

ogy being taught in the schools, and is opposed to Afghanistan with over bloodier tactics. How can it be fought? Confronting the source is a Pakistani position, but it's not an easy task. As many as 100 madrassas currently operate in the tribal areas, the vast majority of them integrated into mosques that provide an institutional cover for their activities. And the numbers are growing. "All mosques have a madrassa," says Tor Ak Khan, a 25-year-old Afghan graduate of the religious school system. "Not just in the tribal areas but all over Pakistan."

Keeping track of each school, in some of the most remote and unfriendly places on the planet, is something Pakistani authorities are struggling to do. Under international pressure to curb the surge in radicalizing ac-



JIHAD IS THE DUTY OF EVERY MUSLIM, SAYS ONE 29-YEAR-OLD MADRASA TEACHER. 'THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN IS A VALID JIHAD.'

tioned, they have started registering these madrassas, monitoring their activities and shutting down those that pursue a violent agenda. But they face an ideological Hydra in that fight: as soon as one school is closed, another opens up in new location, often, says Khan, in a private home away from the eyes of the authorities.

"The government is worried about these schools," says Abdul Karim of the Husna mosque in Peshawar. "They don't want us to track them." Teachers have subsequently become fearful of talking publicly about jihad or anything political, fearing the ideology underpinned. But in private, many of them remain defiant. "If the government destroys all madrassas," says Saedi, "I will not stop from teaching the holy Koran." Others have turned their anger into outright support for the Taliban, whom they see as fellow Muslims bound by the same tribal codes as themselves.

"Pakistanis will not tolerate outsiders telling them what to do," says Iqbal Khattak, Peshawar bureau chief for the Daily News, one of Pakistan's leading newspapers. "They will not be ruled. The harder you push them, the more violently they will push back." This, according to Khattak, a Pakistan himself, is where Pakistan has learned to listen, and where NATO and the U.S. have some serious soul-searching to do. A series of peace deals with the agencies that liberalized areas, first in April 2004 in South Waziristan, then again in May, 5 of this year between the Pakistani government and elders in North Waziristan, point to a long-term strategy adopted by the Pakistani government to deal with autonomy in the region. These agreements, which ended bloody confrontations between Pakistani troops and the tribals, coupled with registration and oversight of mosques as well as economic development and tribal oversight will bring the region under control.

A more recent attempt at curbing the fractious character of the precarious relationship between Pakistan and the U.S. On Oct. 30, another agreement was signed to be signed between the government and elders in the Bajaur Tribal Agency, the northernmost region in tribal areas where, the U.S. claims, Ayman al-Zawahiri, al-Qaeda's second in command, may be hiding. On that same morning, a local madrassa was bombed and 41 people, mostly teenagers, were killed. The Pakistani government, which said the school was a terrorist training camp, claimed its own military carried out the attack. Later



STUDIES STILL CONTINUE: In what remains of the school that was bombed, it is widely believed that U.S. forces were behind the attack.

But the U.S. isn't buying it. "America no longer trusts Pakistan," says Barnette Rudolph, a lawyer with the Pakistani High Court Bar Association. "They believe, rightly or wrongly, that Pakistan's security agencies are in league with the Taliban." Pointing to a rise in attacks in Afghan regions that border North and South Waziristan in the weeks and months following the signing of the peace agreements, some regional observers and U.S. military personnel have condemned any truce in the tribal areas as a victory for the Taliban. But the Pakistanis see no other way out. Their military campaign against the Pakistan tribals ended in a stalemate.

Moreover, it only served to reinforce the deep rooted tribal allegiance that is a cornerstone of the Taliban code.

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investigation, however, showed that the school was indeed a school headed by an imam, an cleric named Masud Langmat, and that it was the Americans who had carried out the bombing, as an adviser to President Pervez Musharraf acknowledged.

The purpose of that attack, observers say, was twofold: first to undermine the peace

AFGHAN PRESIDENT HAMID KARZAI HAS CHARGED THAT THE INSURGENTS GET SUBSTANTIAL AID FROM PAKISTAN'S TRIBAL AREAS

process, which it did (the agreement was never signed), and second (to test tribal religion leaders of the consequences of attacking militant ideologues their schools). "The message the Americans were very clear attack," says Karooni, who led a fact-finding mission to the site, "is that this kind of religious education will not be tolerated. The tribal administration believes that it must end so called religious fundamentalism among the Pakistani people. It believes it can control fundamentalism elsewhere—in South Arabia, for example—but not in the tribal areas, and that is the greatest threat to world peace."

But the result of that attack was to further alienate the tribals and to feed the flames of revenge, another unsuitable re-

sponse in the Pakistan tribal code. Villagers at the site have rallied around the militant as evidence that the Judeo-Christian axis is out to destroy Islam. "This is a war for the survival of Muslims," says one, refusing to provide a name for fear of government reprisals. "If the Americans think this will make us afraid, they are wrong. Death in defense of our religion is the best way to die."

For Canadian troops in Kandahar, the Bajaur attack came at a time when their own ideological efforts in Afghanistan are critically important. But the hearts and minds battle our soldiers are waging there—building trust, schools and relationships with the local community—does little to confront the ideological mill churning out more fighters and suicide bombers across the border in Pakistan. Being part of an ill-fated army makes Canadians culpable, even subject to the Pakistani tribal code of revenge, when a madrassa like the one in Bajaur is attacked and students killed. Our soldiers are fighting not only wars, but an ideology, but while the fight against that ideology is likely to shape the future of the war in Afghanistan, Canadian Forces have little say in how that battle will be fought. They will, however, inevitably face its consequences. ■



A YOUNG RELIGIOUS student watches rebuilding efforts at his Bajaur madrassa

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ARJUN D. KOSIN

A few kind words for poor Rummy



He was a hero going into the Pentagon job. How did it go so wrong?

BY LIZZY CAH SAVAGE • Donald Rumsfeld walked out of his Pentagon office for the first time last week, 10 days before he could claim to have been the longest serving defense secretary in U.S. history. The 74-year-old never sat on the job. He did his work standing for up to 10 hours a day, a fact he pointed out in a hand scribbled note on a memo during an on-again, off-again interview. He included forcing prisoners at Guantanamo to stand for four hours at a time. He was demanding, confrontational, and critical. He departs office shuddering the blame for America's military troubles in Iraq, and leaves behind an army grabbed to the breaking point by two wars—Iraq and Afghanistan—with no end in sight.

Willard? Perhaps. Some say a tragic figure. "It's like a 750-hour marathon with the bells loaded at the bottom of the ninth in the last game of the World Series," says Michael O'Sullivan, a military analyst for the Brookings Institution, a think tank in Washington. "It's tragic because a very talented person under-achieved at the moment it was the most important. It's almost Shakespearean."

Another wrote that a tragic hero must have

certain qualities. He must be great. He must have a tragic flaw, and it must cause him a reversal of fortune. And at some point, he must come to understand what caused his downfall. Rummy he had to remember today, but Rumsfeld was once considered great. He was a navy fighter pilot, a congressman at 30, and an ambassador to NATO before President Gerald Ford made him White House chief of staff and then the youngest defense secretary in U.S. history (Rumsfeld leaves office as third-best). He launched a hugely successful private sector career as a CEO who turned around troubled companies, earning tremendous wealth.

SOME ARE CALLING HIM A TRAGIC FIGURE. IT'S ALMOST SHAKESPEAREAN.



and upset on *Fortune* magazine's list of America's "Toughest Bosses." When George W. Bush picked him to lead the Pentagon in 2001, his hometown Chicago Tribune called it "a stellar choice," the Los Angeles Times pronounced him "a born-again manager," and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette said "his experience is reassuring."

At first, he looked heroic. Rumsfeld won respect for his hands-on response to the attack on the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, helping save the wounded as the building burned. The swift invasion of Afghanistan that seemed to succeed where the Soviets' could't made him a media star. His press conference strategy, today considered arrogant and combative, was then seen as candid and alpha-male. He was called sexy and a "babe magnet." Powering boats were rushed to port, including the *Rumsfeld* ship. The *Leadership* list drew a 3.4-star Harvard Master's.

Yet talk of his wartime reputation started almost immediately—well before the serious attacks of 9/11—as the new defense secretary ran afoul of the generals. Behind the scenes, Rumsfeld was turning the Pentagon upside down. He was implementing what military analysts labelled a "revolution in military affairs," "transforming" the military from a Cold War force to an agile high-tech force poised to take on new threats. The vision called for less emphasis on ground forces, more focus on technology, smart bombs, cyber weapons, and stealth forces. He didn't come up with the idea. George W. Bush campaigned on this policy when he ran for president in 2000, although Rumsfeld became an enthusiastic supporter and its public face. But the revolution meant killing some of the general's pet projects.

The former college senior's is youth-force leadership, relentless questioning and decision style earned him just what he needed to pull it off. "There are no vested interests in inter-



Arriving in Baghdad last April, with Dolly Parton at the Grand Ole Opry in 2005

est in a bureaucracy, and transformation sought to untangle those interests," says David Schickel, who until last year worked as a policy adviser to Rumsfeld and is now a scholar at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "That's going to create enemies." It did. By 2002, Rumsfeld had killed a Cold War style, US is billion, 40 some mobile military systems, which angered the Congress, but had been a right years in development. The army was livid. Last spring, retired generals made international headlines by publicly calling for Rumsfeld's resignation on account of Iraq, they had almost been returned about a US\$25 billion budget cut.

Not did Rumsfeld run any friends when he gave himself more power over promoting generals than his overhauling Pentagon civilian employment policies, looking pay to performance and to market goals and sparking lawsuits by labor unions, war who he avowed the biggest loss closure and realignment programs in U.S. history. Add to the mix his mistrust of the generals and reliance on a small circle of civilians, and his attempts to suppress the business press's top military adviser, and it becomes clearer how he cleared many military leaders' self before U.S. troops set foot in Baghdad.

"That style of leadership was in many ways what a civilian should try to do in the military—the bare role of the cabinet secretary is to chair up the debate, challenge conventional wisdom, and force military reformers," says O'Sullivan. Analysts applauded some of the practices of Rumsfeld. He slashed the practice of keeping the army in three main sectors, thereby giving it more flexibility. He created more flexible combat units in the army. His insistence on a lighter, smaller land force enabled the Americans to



ANALYSTS APPLAUDED SOME OF HIS REFORMS

apple iPhone. Rumsfeld with 146,694 U.S. soldiers—the 150,000 planners initially said would be needed. But after the speedy invasion, he ignored warnings that more forces were needed to control the border, secure airports, and clean up the bombing. At the situation spilled out of control, he was cautious and didn't respond, say his critics. Rumsfeld dismissed looking at Iraq with "naïf" happen. He focused on high-tech weaponry instead of buying more body armor for troops. He allowed the Iraq army to disband, creating a huge morale problem for insurgents. For a time, he signed letters to local leaders of the fall with a signature machine.

"Rumsfeld will go down in history as a tragic figure," says Fred Kaplan, a former West Point military historian now at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative Washington think tank. "Because his personality has

been to transform the military, he has consistently attempted to do so. He has consistently attempted to do so in the midst of this war. I think the tragedy is that, even so timely, he is going to leave us with a more force that are less well prepared to meet future challenges." In fact, the army's chief of staff warned last week that the army "will break" under the strain of Iraq and Afghanistan. Former secretary of state Colin Powell said last Sunday that it is already "about broken."

But Kaplan says the problem is much bigger than Rumsfeld. In a new book, *Fixing the Project*, he argues that the decline of the US military depends more on the corruption of military transformation too narrowly—a winning war from the air with smarter weapons and fewer troops—while failing to think through the more important question of how to use military power to achieve political aims, such as a stable, democratic Iraq. "This goes beyond the Defense Department. We don't have to reorganize in the American government. We do have the broad-based political planning we need. This is not just Rumsfeld's fault," Kaplan argues. Others say that, on the one hand, the Iraq war, it was so ill conceived that it would have led to disaster—no matter who ran the Pentagon.

Either way, it's widely Rumsfeld will ever follow America's model and become a disaster on himself. In fact, he's eager to share

the blame. "There is not a single important decision of any

magnitude at all that the chairman and the joint staff and the combatant commanders, where appropriate, and the secretaries, where appropriate, have not been involved," Rumsfeld said in a farewell news brief meeting at the Pentagon. Of his chairman critics to make an Iraq policy force, he said, "There was no line item for the Department of Defense to do anything about police. It was over at the State Department. And they didn't have the power to do it. And the Congress didn't authorize the money to do it." As for the controversy of disaster treatment at Guantanamo, he blamed it on a "grossly unbalanced and irresponsible charges in the media from almost every quarter."

The closer we might get to conclusion may be that "I wish I could get it everything we've done here has gone perfectly, but that's not how life works," he said "Respectfully." ■

SWEDEN: PEOPLE IN JACKETS ARE RAISED OFF

Residents of the village of Fjuckby have taken just about all they can stand. In a petition to the Swedish government's office they write: "This word 'Fjuckby' appears in sports- and other media and is associated with people and animals." A change on the grounds of the village is not without precedent in Sweden. In the 1950s, Skövde was granted a change because its name meant "horned raptor."

THE ISSUE IN...

Money for nothing, lawn sign for free

The backlash against soaring real estate commissions heats up

BY JANELLE SANDERS • Robert Greenberg is a real estate player, and he's on a winning streak. As the top-selling agent at Harvey Kalles Real Estate in Toronto, Greenberg closes the deal a few times a month, guaranteeing that by listing homes at less than their true value, he will draw more interested buyers and multiple offers, all designed to spark lucrative bidding wars. The realtor has sold 96 homes worth \$93 million in sales, and proudly says he could sell more because the buyers want his properties. "I just sold a house at Avenue Road and Lawrence [in adjacent north Toronto] through a blind auction," Greenberg says. "I listed it for \$999,000 knowing I should get \$1,750,000 or more. I had no offers. I ended up selling for \$701,000—\$701,000 over the asking price."

Agents' commissions are based on a home's selling price, and although there is no set rate, five percent splits between the listing and selling brokers is more common. Thousands Greenberg would net \$1.56 million, if his brokerage takes half a percentage point. Not a bad deal, especially when you consider it's 30 times what a high-end lawyer would charge

for processing the same number of deals. But the whole practice of tying commission rates to selling price is the source of rising controversy, especially as soaring property values across North America have driven an explosion in payouts for top-end real estate agents. They claim "it never decreases" as both home buyers and sellers, and is a primary reason why such sales may be inflated by, on average, more than 100 per cent or US\$10 billion annually," says Mark Nadell, an attorney with the federal trade commission in Washington, who writes on policy issues. In an article published in October for the ARES Brokers' Association (CREA) and a realtor near Calgary with Burrey-Roddy View agents that there are definitely agents out there making loads of money. But he says there are other reasons why agents will have houses listed for three months, and when they don't sell, owners take them off the market and the agent gets nothing, which explains why agents are highly motivated to sell your house, even if the price is not what you want. But this creates another problem—advising the best price for sellers. There is little incentive for agents to list a home at the highest possible price and stay firm. An increase of \$100,000 in the selling price means just a \$500 increase in the commission, and it might make the house harder to sell. It makes better

There's no evidence that a higher-priced home is more costly to sell and, as we've seen from Greenberg, the opposite may even be true, especially in hot urban markets like Vancouver, Toronto and Calgary. But commission rates do not decrease with lower house prices or quick sales. Thousands agents in Canada's top markets are making even more money, selling expensive homes at low prices, with lower marketing costs, than agents in slower, less expensive markets like Halifax and Saskatoon.

And a backlash may be beginning. Some are calling for a lower commission system like the one in the U.K., where agents typically collect just a one per cent commission. Here in North America, more and more brokerages are popping up offering flat fee home sales, where the agent's fee is fixed, regardless of selling price.

But not everybody agrees there's a problem. Alan Bennett, president of the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) and a realtor near Calgary with Burrey-Roddy View agents that there are definitely agents out there making loads of money. But he says there are other reasons why agents will have houses listed for three months, and when they don't sell, owners take them off the market and the agent gets nothing, which explains why agents are highly motivated to sell your house, even if the price is not what you want. But this creates another problem—advising the best price for sellers. There is little incentive for agents to list a home at the highest possible price and stay firm. An increase of \$100,000 in the selling price means just a \$500 increase in the commission, and it might make the house harder to sell. It makes better



GURLEY, B.C., agent Scott Williams offers flat-fee pricing, and has closed 87 deals this year, but most of the industry is maintaining the status quo.

convenient sales, from an agent's perspective, to price homes to sell quickly.

As the most of the real estate paradox is the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) Accessible only to licensed agents, with a \$120-billion sales last year in Canada, this is one of the most effective marketing tools ever created. It's like the stock brokerage of real estate—if you're not on the MLS, don't expect to get a great price for your house. But the availability of the MLS is stopping real estate competition from avoiding agency fees, argues Nadell. He'd like to see home owners be able to list their own property on the MLS to encourage more competition to lower commission rates.

Another controversy issue is that the selling brokers' commission rates offered to buyers' brokers are paid for by the seller's only, so home owners don't know if their agent is offering a competitive commission. If those rates are not competitive, chances are your home will not have as many viewings on other properties. When Surrey, B.C., agent Scott Williams was searching for a discount brokerage to join, he says he avoided all the flat-fee offered low-brokers' rates, because "other agents wouldn't want to show homes where they're not going to make very much." In Toronto's case, Nadell suggests that buyers' brokers are their own fees or negotiate with their buyers.

"Most home buyers have accepted the pervasive myth that as a buyer, you're never paying a commission anyway," Nadell writes. But that is wrong because sellers think about what they're going to net after the commissions are paid. If buyers' brokers received a smaller commission, homeowners would

THE REALTY, WHICH OFFERS SERVICES FOR A FLAT FEE REGARDLESS OF SELLING PRICE, SAW ITS SALES ALMOST TRIPLE FROM 2004 TO 2005

be willing to sell their houses for less.

There are other options available to help consumers reduce real estate fees. The "for sale by owner" has not been as successful as the MLS, this method has never been easy. Flat-fee brokers, offering national MLS exposure for a set price, may be a more realistic option. Consumers know little about the status when they're going to pay, plus they get the exposure they need. But not all agents are interested, citing the high costs of selling property as a deterrent. "The cost for placement on the MLS is \$15, but this is a false figure because of all the other costs involved," says Kevin Clark, president of the Calgary Real Estate Board and an associate with Burrey-Roddy View agents. "There is also the cost of the website, market research for pricing, the time spent meeting with clients, open houses and all the other costs involved."

Yet agents who sell using only flat-fee commissions, like Richmond, B.C., realtor Lawrence Bennett, are doing well with this business model. "Our net company sales in 2005 increased by 191 per cent over 2004, and right now we're ahead of last year," says Bennett, the principal broker at IIS Realty, who has been offering flat-fee pricing since 2000.

In October, IIS Realty rejected Ontario,

offering flat-fee services for 1996 to the greater Toronto area, plus a 25 per cent to the buyer's broker at closing. Outside the GTA, the cost is \$1,245. For this fee, Bennett provides an MLS listing with photos, a local broker's services, a yard sign and a Web page. Williams, in Surrey, has been offering flat-fee rates for the past year and a half. He works for the discount brokerage Realty 5000 Sales, and charges \$1,500 for the MLS listing, a \$650 administration fee, and a minimum of \$1,500 for the buyer's broker. At first, this option seems to be more expensive than 25% of the structure, and it is for lower priced homes. But once you get into the \$500,000 price range and up, it is actually cheaper. Not just pricing, but the flat-fee structure has been well accepted by sellers. Williams has closed 87 deals this year, including two multiple bid transactions in the last couple of months. Nadell, a former proponent of flat-fee structures, says, "If you can make money from the flat-fee pricing, it gives an indication of how much extra there is with percentage-of-sale pricing."

Even though flat fees are proving to be a success in lowering costs without crippling agents, the real estate industry, which has grown incredibly lucrative through soaring prices and high commissions, is so much more reluctant to change on a massive scale. At a September meeting of CREA in Halifax, the main topic concerned around money to the MLS. Bennett says there was no reference to the "commission side of real estate." And Greenberg, who plans to continue the cap agent in his brokerage, says, "I see clients that give me \$10 million of business a year. They may get a cheaper rate, but not a flat fee." ■

TOP SELLING agent Robert Greenberg has sold 96 homes in the Toronto area worth \$93 million this year. His take: About \$7.9 million.



PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHANIE ROBERT; STYLING: JANE HARRIS; PHOTOGRAPH BY COLLIER HILLIER

The billion-dollar breakfast boom

The fast-food industry has set its sights on your morning routine

BY GAREY GRUBB • The fast-food industry has finally awakened to what everyone else has known since McDonald's introduced the big McMillie breakfast: It's the most important meal of the day. Tim Hortons, Burger King, Wendy's, even Taco Bell and Starbucks, are coming up with their own renditions of the decades-long champion of breakfast sandwiches. "There's money to be made," says Martin Greenberg, a Toronto-based food industry consultant. A lot of money.

Breakfast accounts for an estimated US\$40 billion in annual sales in the U.S., according to Technomic, a market research firm in Chicago, and "60 per cent of the business has been earned by fast-food companies," says president Ken Paul. He predicts up to eight per cent annual growth, which amounts to a whopping \$1 billion a year in new business as more players realize the value of adding breakfast options to the menu. "They're paying all their capital costs, anyway. An egg is only 15 or 17 cents a cook," explains Greenberg. "Now they see that there's an opportunity to create sales."

Until recently, most fast-food chains were focused on lunch and dinner, and coffee shops were stuck on serving decafines and muffins. McDonald's, on the other hand, has dominated the morning market for more than three decades with only a handful of hot and savory options. And breakfast has become an even bigger part of its strategy to boost revenues over the last three years with the introduction of new items such as bagels, McGriddles and premium coffees (see below) has jumped 31 per cent to US\$10 billion since 2002—and breakfast is driving that growth.

To replicate such success, Starbucks is tired using upscale breakfast sandwiches with flaxseeds, cheese, pepperoni and cholesterol-free eggs, which it estimates will bring in an additional US\$150,000 in revenue to each of its stores. Taco Bell has a Breakfast Burrito. Burger King has the Enormous Omelet Sandwich. Wendy's, which in the 1980s failed at breakfast, is trying again with Omelette in the hopes of reaping added sales of

US\$225,000 per store. And Tim Hortons, which holds about 75 per cent of the coffee and baked goods market in Canada, is banking on breakfast sandwiches to boost sales by five per cent.

Part of the appeal is that customers get the biggest bang for their buck in the morning, compared to what they'd pay for other meals, says Greenberg. "Some of these places are going to introduce a breakfast getting-back-on-egggs at just \$1.99," breakfast could, however, prove the toughest meal for those chains to pull off because while people enjoy trying new restaurants and foods for

And he's skeptical that all breakfast consumers are created equal, suggesting that McDonald's owners won't necessarily find the Starbucks free market.

The good news is that there are more and more breakfast consumers to go around. Increasingly, people are grabbing their first meal of the day after they leave the house in the morning, according to the NPD study, which showed, for example, that most breakfast at home declined from 26 percent to 13 per cent over the last two decades. Time-crunched consumers take advantage of the convenience of drive-throughs to pick up their breakfast on the way to work. And the proliferation of fast-food stores and coffee shops means that a breakfast sandwich is usually only a quick walk from the office. "That is a major factor for customers," says Greenberg, adding that consumers are also at their most temperamental in the morn-

BURGER KING'S Enormous Omelet Sandwich is just one of many new breakfast sandwiches



BREAKFAST IS A US\$40-BILLION-A-YEAR BUSINESS, WITH MORE THAN HALF GOING TO FAST-FOOD CHAINS

lunch and dinner, the morning is all about habit. A recent study by research firm NPD Group shows 48 per cent of people say their breakfast choice is driven by routine. That means consumers devoted to one chain's menu won't be easily persuaded to try a competitor's offerings. "People are pretty ritualistic. They think of comfort and time. A lot of people eat the same thing for breakfast every day—allegedly," says Greenberg.

ing. "They become ritualistic. They wake up fast and they want a fruit," he says.

The businesses that do breakfast sandwiches well run another risk, eating into the sales of other menu options such as burgers and coffees. That judging by the success of McDonald's, that is a risk worth taking. At a recent investment conference, chief executive Jim Skinner announced that within a few days "we could be serving breakfast all-day." An online petition supporting the move was signed by one McMillie fan: "If you served breakfast all the time, I'd go to McD's all the time 'til that's my intention, the battle over breakfast has just begun."

Why stock options should be banned



STEVE MAJICH

Nobody wants to be the heavy handed, licit of all the guardians of the capital markets. The very thought of a Market ban on anything is enough to make them recoil. They prefer regulations, guidelines, and the current rule: publishing best practices—which boils down to policing wrongdoing with peer pressure and disapproving glances.

Most securities cops take their jobs seriously, but they're torn by the double edge of their mandate: to deter abuses and punish wrongdoing, but without obstructing the free market. Like the permission to punish, the duty of speaking their previous child's country, they follow suit: deterring, not punishing. They only follow suit with intention: consequences and incentives to enforcement, they see confusion among investors and cynicism, wasting resources. Companies say they're drawing in costly and pointless red tape, and the public thinks corporate crime rings on unimpeded anyway.

Securities is better put to rest your fear down. It's not elegant, but it has the benefit of clarity. And when it comes to the use of stock options, the grim rule that has enriched the world's executive class by unadmitted billions over the past few decades, it's time to say "no." It's time to ban stock options as a perk for corporate executives. No more excuses for the accounting rules. No more incomprehensible footnotes. Call 'em illegal, and be done with it.

Options are inherently flawed because they distort the risks and rewards of owning stock. The deal works like this: each year, a company issues an executive the right to buy stock at a future date at a set price. So, let's say you get an option to buy your company's stock for \$10. No matter a year or so until the option "vests," by then hopefully the stock has gone up to, say, \$30. You exercise your option to buy at \$10, turn around and sell the stock into the market at \$30, pocket the difference and go back to sleeping. This simple transaction has unleashed tens of billions of dollars

into CEO stock accounts in recent years.

Executives used that option as a great incentive, entering corporate managements focused on the stock price, and thus the shareholders' funds grew, except executives holding stock options have none of their own capital at risk. If the stock goes down, and your options are considered "underwater," you may as well as on a windfall, but since you paid nothing for them in the first place, you've lost nothing. Hence the trend was, tells the shareholders last.

For many executives, even if the stock isn't going enough? When hundreds of such companies have their stock prices collapsed in 2001, punishing their options without, many opposed their own success by "re-pairing" options—meaning exercise prices and vesting periods to yield another hefty payoff for traders while ordinary investors bailed. And yet, the most signified signs of the stock market, trading options for cash. This trick move was called "manipulating," and although perfectly legal, it

Options work like wonders for execs: heads the insiders win, tails the shareholders lose

most studies had already budgeted against the crash of that company's stock, and investors were not the winners.

There's no shortage of securities capitalists opposed to this kind of game-playing. Paul Volcker, the renowned former chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, objects because they emphasize short-term stock movements at the expense of the long-term health of the company. Corporate giant Warren Buffett objects on the grounds that options provide a benefit to executives that isn't available to ordinary investors. Both are valid criticisms, but they raise the more fundamental problem: executives over the past few years' options are ripe for fraud.

U.S. regulators are currently investigating the widespread practice of "backdating"—retroactively manipulating the date of options grants to maximize the payout for executives at the expense of shareholders. Among the hundreds of companies under review

against Buffett's own tech giant Research In Motion. Already, dozens of executives have taken the fall for this, and the staggering costs are just now coming into focus. In October, Andrew McKelvey, chief executive of Motorola Worldwide, stepped down over allegations surrounding tens of millions of dollars in options grants he collected. Last week, Motorola said it had understated its options costs by US\$179.6 million over six years.

Home Depot said it too under-reported the cost of its options programs—by about US\$300 million over 15 years. And, by about

ANDREW MCKELVEY had to resign over options allegations



quick to add, it was all an innocent mistake. One suspects that if Home Depot made some other kind of mistake, they would have been a no-brainer. But the way of 17 and less a year later, a quarter century, heads would still and quickly. But when it comes to options, everybody is exposed to a trap, and "Well, at least they didn't do it on purpose."

The latest twist in this game comes courtesy of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, which has found that some companies inked with options deals, not to write more money for executives, but to help them avoid income taxes.

Enough. If you want to keep executives focused on the interests of shareholders, pay part of their annual salary and bonus in stocks and require them to hold that stock until after they quit or retire. It's not elegant, but it's clear and it's fair. And executives, like children, sometimes need a firm hand to guide them. ■

THE ANTI-SLACKER PINNACLE TAKES TIME OFF

Reluctantly, Burger Martin has taken his first-ever time off. The week-end. But a British publishing company is suffering from an iron overload that requires surgery. But because of a hospital break it will be months before he's operated on, so he'll be off work until then. "I love work and I like to keep active," Martin says. "When I am not working, I become miserable." Clearly working agrees with him: at 130, he's one of Britain's oldest workers.





BENCHED Ron Desjardins, charged with assaulting MSJ's coach, was fined \$2,000

COURTING TROUBLE

Minor hockey has come down hard to punish parents over rink rage—unlike the courts

BY AARON VIGOR • Two years ago, Ron Desjardins' eight-year-old son was benched for a few shots by his hockey coach, Mark Teskey, because the boy had mistreated parents and was lacking focus during the pre-game warm-up. So annoyed was Desjardins that he approached the bench and choked the coach until Teskey lost consciousness.

Desjardins was charged with assault and, like many cases of rink rage in Canada, the trial in Toronto became a minor spectacle. With the public paying attention, the Crown's strategy deemed a fine statement was in order, asking that Desjardins be sentenced to four months in jail. "From any perspective, this became a case that had the power to hit a nerve about the game's conduct,"

Crown attorney Dennis Armstrong says. John Gaudin, president of the Greater Toronto Hockey League, agreed and, in his written submission to the Crown, asked the judge to send a message. "We encourage you to send a sentence that will reflect society's general sentiment at an unprovoked attack upon a volunteer," he wrote. "And, with so much attention publicly, will bring to the attention of players, parents and spectators that such behavior...has no room in the sport of our country." Hockey Canada president Bob Nicholson chimed in too, asking for a sentence that would "send a strong and clear message to those who fail to control their emotions."

No such luck. Ultimately, the judge opted to let Desjardins go with a \$2,000 fine. He accepted Desjardins' defense that he was not

upset from the death of his father some four months earlier, and that after returning from a "bereavement vacation" to Mexico the night before, "Desjardins' parents sometimes do wrong things and get dragged into a situation that is very frightening." Desjardins' lawyer explained to reporters.

Such an understanding might not seem mere gilding if it wasn't so predictable, given the precedents. In the case, averted trial with the Crown's recommendation might have been the hockey rink's final word. The fact is, parents who assault coaches, referees and other parents are generally forgiven their actions at hockey's informal arbitration.

Last year, a father in Ontario was fined \$1,000 fine and 15 months' probation for slapping referee's head against a metal door. Also in Ontario, another man staged an accidental charge and two hours of community service after hauling coffee into the face of a player who had elbow-checked his son from behind, while a B.C. father received a \$350 fine for punching a lineman. Four years ago, a former police officer in Quebec caught up with a \$50 fine after raising deaf threats at a referee. A survey of a dozen cases in recent

years found only one that resulted in a jail sentence—a father in Alberta sentenced to 30 days in jail after jumping on the ice to attend to his injured son and threatening the life of the referee while holding a hockey stick.

Though the courts aren't yet willing to do likewise, the hockey community has gone to great lengths in recent years to deal with the problem of rink rage, banning parents from arenas for years at a time in extreme cases. "The number of incidents [is] very well down," said Paul Schmidt, president of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association. "But, when they have come up, we have come down very hard on the parent, where we've suspended them. Up to a three-year ban in probably 10 cases." But amidst a another minor incident, Desjardins a five-year ban from GMHL, since "this can't be open season in hockey."

"If this case was, say, a teacher, the man would be in jail," says Roselle Wallace, Vancouver Minor Hockey Association president and a Grade 7 teacher. "The choked husband's teacher because she gave him a detention wouldn't give him the mark that the parent thought the child deserved."

The most references case of rink rage occurred in Massachusetts in 2006, when Theresa Janis beat another parent to death in a dispute, namely, over a game Janis felt was too tough. The 44-year-old truck driver was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to serve up to 10 years in prison. But it was another case Desjardins' lawyer alluded to explain why his client did not deserve jail time—a case of former Vancouver Canucks star Todd Bertuzzi, who attacked Colorado Avalanche forward Steve Moore from behind during a 2004 game, breaking three vertebrae in Moore's neck.

Desjardins pleaded guilty to assault and was sentenced to a year's probation and 50 hours of community service. Assault penalty for Desjardins, says Gaudin, might have scared potential managers. "I hope to hell somebody doesn't have to get killed to drive this point home—that some of us can't be tolerated." ■

IF HE'D CHOKED HIS SON'S TEACHER, HE WOULD BE IN JAIL

GIANT RACCOON ENDS A QUARTERBACK'S CAREER
When you've a football quarterback, you expect the tackles, but former New Orleans Saints quarterback Aaron Manning is suing the Tennessee Titans for getting knocked down. Last Friday, he distributed US\$20 million in damage, a signing the Titans' mascot, T-Rex, who has once with a golf cart driving into him. He alleges that the rule in with T-Rex (a giant raccoon) left him with a bruised knee, which prompted the Saints to dump him.



WHO'S SUING WHOM

HEALTH

The doctor will read you now

BlackBerrys in the ICU: Wireless email cuts through the chaos

BY DANIEL MARGHERITA • Web conferencing for a physician, Dr. Chris O'Connor recalls the day he reads a potentially fatal message. It happened at the Trillium Health Centre in Mississauga, Ontario's busiest emergency hospital—but it could just as easily have happened in any doctor's office. Trillium's intensive care unit was happening on a cold winter morning in early 2005. It was peak flu season, and O'Connor remembers six nurses jockeying to ask or tell him something about their different patients. In one case, a woman on a ventilator had had a feed pipe inserted through her nose. The insertion is done blindly. Most of the time, the tube ends up in the stomach, but it can also lodge in a lung. A nurse on the ward asked O'Connor to read the patient's chest X-ray to confirm. In the confusion, O'Connor missed the tube in the woman's left lung, an error discovered only after the patient had been fed a couple of times. "If the nurse hadn't pushed it up, things could have been different," O'Connor says. "I really upset me—the patient could have died."

The woman recovered, but O'Connor, 41, was left with a nagging question: how had he missed something so obviously straight forward? His answer: He missed the nurses, who were just doing their jobs. "Then how we were working as a team it was inefficient, it was disorganised," O'Connor says. "I figured there had to be a better way." Enter the BlackBerry. In August 2005, O'Connor and his colleagues started using BlackBerrys in the hospital's 12-bed ICU, opposite all the staff used the portable cardiac monitors, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dietitians, and social workers. It broke a traditional rule—everyone knows common sense doesn't let cellphones and BlackBerrys are prohibited in hospitals because they interfere with sensitive medical equipment. Despite the danger, the one thing cellphones power cannot do is significantly lower body time in a clinic day, when studies first suggested there may be a risk. Modern health equipment is also better insulated against radio frequency interference. In fact, while most hospitals ban cellphones, they often

allow security personnel to use walkie-talkies, which have over three times the power and so are much more likely to cause interference with medical devices. "The truth is the safe to use cellphones in most clinical environments, almost everywhere," O'Connor says. "The only meaningful exception to that is central intensive care units and their temperature probes. You don't want them there." Trillium has an independent consultant assess its plans just to be sure, and remains cautious—banning BlackBerry

communication devices are responsible for 37 per cent of medical mistakes associated in ICUs. His notes have a landmark report published in 2004 estimated that somewhere between 9,200 and almost 34,000 Canadians die every year in acute care hospitals from preventable injuries or complications.

The hope at Trillium now is to expand the program beyond an ICU day shift. "It's just become a whole lot easier to get a hold of people," says Dr. Gagan Bhargava, the hospital's chief of staff. "I'd love to be able to get a note every physician's hands."

Given the days when Trillium's ICU wasn't bad to pass a physician if he or she couldn't be found. Overhead announcements on the public address system usually were static, illegible and the nurses could never be sure the doctor got the message.



"CAN THE BLACKBERRY SAVE LIVES? I THINK, ABSOLUTELY YES," SAYS O'CONNOR.

use any closer than one meter from a bed. Trillium's trial was a huge success. In our key using the BlackBerry to speed, reliability and physician response to critical needs, we got the program an average of 6.6 out of seven. Today, everyone in Trillium's ICU can send emails to anyone anytime. "We're the first in the world to connect a health care team like this," O'Connor says. "Can the BlackBerry save lives? I think, absolutely yes."

The need for better communication is undeniable. O'Connor already has found

Email in context, and so Trillium demonstrates those BlackBerry models without voice capability, still allow doctors on a cellphone to respond to a text that they're doing to take a call, and then find a pen or remember what the call was about. But with email, they can briefly glance away from what they're doing to read the message, and if it's not urgent, ignore it, knowing the details are safely stored for retrieval later on.

Trillium's ICU is much like any other. Physicians are not at the bedside. Nurses track



MORE FUN THAN BEANS BUT JUST AS SAFE
Sagat, which has been eaten for centuries by the Chinese, can be served as a snack. A healthy snack, has a lower amount of water than, while brown in appearance, has a lower amount of water than. Foods with low fat take longer to digest and pass less often in the pancreas. Lower sugar has a GI of 50, while the new form of sugar, which tastes the same as the regular stuff, has a GI of only 52, about the same as kidney beans.

and patients at any one time: heart rate, breathing, blood pressure. With the hiss of pumped oxygen in the background, nurse Jodi Hanna has one ear on her radio for that day. Meanwhile, one of the controversial Blackberry assigned to her when she's on duty. She'll pop it from its holster and scroll through a list of who's on that day. "Life is so much easier now," she says. Prior doctors had been a "sit-downer," but with the change, meds is up. "We know we're being heard. They have no choice but to respond because there's time stamp on the email."

Recently, nurse Christine Marek disagrees. She was "scotched," but at the same time a little bit nervous. "We thought there was too much technology in it, it will have another thing being added—would it make things more difficult?" In truth, says Marek, "It's a whole new thing, but the fact that we don't have to hang around most doc to get an immediate answer. Within seconds I can get an order sent, or I can get a pharmacist to come up quickly to answer a med, or if there's a family in crisis, I can Blackberry a social worker." Marek adds: "I don't have to wait for them to call me back."

Dr. Neil Adelman, a critical-care physician in the ICU of the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, believes "lifesaver" has taken a "progressive view" on improving health care. The current widespread use of paging technology, says Adelman, "is as revolutionary, pretty inefficient, and error-prone. I've seen where one insurance agent delayed response to pages has delayed care."

The TriNetix program runs on a commercial wireless network owned by Rogers Communications (which owns Maclean's). It costs the hospital about a year to run the 39 Blackberry used in the ICU—roughly 1 per cent of the unit's annual budget. To reduce costs, however, TriNetix likely will soon allow down the carrier to run the device off an own wireless line. In an interview, says O'Connor, who handles business and 60 ICU-related units a day. That will restrict the Blackberry's usage to hospital grounds, but it will also cut annual costs by two-thirds.

In a rare moment of downtime, O'Connor passes over a steaming cup of coffee on the hospital's main floor. He is filled with a boyish enthusiasm, eyes wide, hair down, convinced others cannot but help follow. To Jodi Hanna's level, that Blackberry cut down on communication errors and distractions, and most importantly, reduce the likelihood of killing patients with avoidable mistakes. At a time when virtually every second person on the street is carrying a cellphone or a Blackberry. "We can't have anything lagging behind the rest of society by, like, six or 10 years," O'Connor says. "We can't." ■



NOT ALL PARENTS know, but some Canadian schools have had such programs for years

DOES THERAPY BELONG IN CLASS?

This course teaches kids how to be happier. And yes, there's a grade.

BY DAFNA IZENBERG • Next summer, the school board in South Tyrol, an unpopulated district on Italy's northeastern coast, will send about 30 teachers and counsellors to the Positive Psychology Centre at the University of Pennsylvania (known as Penn), in Philadelphia. There they will spend several days at the academy of Martin Seligman, author of the landmark self-help book *Learned Optimism*, and a pioneer in the field of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT). The teachers aren't going to Seligman's centre for counselling or team-building exercises. Rather, they will be trained to administer a program based on CBT to about 3,000 British grade school students. By next September, the school board plans to introduce what is called an "Emotional Resilience" program, and what the U.K. press has dubbed "happiness classes" to all 11-year-olds in the district. It will be the first public program of its kind in the U.S. to focus so heavily on mental health.

Reading, writing and... resilience? Traditionally, developing a child's ability to face the challenges of life was thought to be something we all learn in the school of life, but these days have started adopting programs like this as part of the general curriculum, alongside

geography and art. Packed in anger-management or stress-reduction programs, they are delivered in traditional lesson format, complete with assignments and homework, and, in some cases, grades. The impetus for putting programs like these into schools came from an alarming statistic, cited by many education and psychology professionals in North America and the U.K.: one in five kids is diagnosed with depression before age 18. South Tyrol's public trust recently asked whether they can't just teach kids how to be happy, and the answer is yes, either occasionally or frequently.

Seligman's classes, which first surfaced in schools 15 years ago, are about teaching coping, optimism and resilience in dealing with the kinds of problems kids often face:

A SEGMENT ON 'PARENTAL FIGHTING' TEACHES KIDS TO THINK OF THEIR OWN COPING STRATEGIES

divorce, bullying, academic pressure. The approach is based on the CBT premise of interrupting low-level, negative "self-talk" with clear, realistic thinking. And Seligman's team has some detailed evidence that the Penn program, with its focus on problem-solving, optimism, resilience and self-efficacy to optimism. "Some people are born more optimistic than others," says Martin Seligman, a psychologist who works with Seligman. "But it's a skill anyone can acquire."

The British aren't alone in their efforts to

address emotional problems in the classroom. Canadian schools have been running programs that use classic CBT techniques such as role-playing and relaxation exercises for a number of years—a fact that isn't well-known because they don't always require parental consent or advance. Some preschool curricula in Toronto districts have also used the Penn program, and Regina's school board has been using a CBT-based violence prevention program called Second Step in select classrooms for years. Stanley Public School in Toronto's West and North ends is currently teaching Second Step to all grade one to grade three students. Next term, the school plans to incorporate the course into its report card. Realistic, as with any class, will be tied to performance, explains principal Kay Rosenblatt. "Are they exhibiting the things they have been taught through Second Step, for example, empathy, impulse control, managing their anger?"

Proponents insist that CBT in the classroom is education, not therapy. In fact, they warn, classroom versions should never read on clinical grounds. But the classes can very well serve as a prelude to therapy. The Penn program includes a lesson on "personal lighting," in which kids are encouraged to think of behavioural strategies to cope when they possess anger in Second Step, teachers prompt kids to talk about their feelings by showing them picture cards—for example, one of an angry looking child with his arm crossed, looking as if he's in a bad mood.

They play—and then they talk about to prevent the situation depicted is happening to them.

All of this has raised some questions. As Sandra Mendelsohn, a psychologist at the Hospital for Sick Children, says, "If you're going to open a wound, you need to know what to do with it." Teachers aren't necessarily equipped to assign the more serious kids could get into, or make how difficult it is for a child in a group exposed to sensitive discussions. "The kid whose family has a lot of conflict might be particularly vulnerable to being one of the kids of vendetta," says Penn's Seligman. "So it's not that the group leader has to protect that child. It's that the group leader has to be looking out for the other kids."

While Penn recommends that all teachers deliver its material be armed (a 30-min program) and receive training, they can't enforce that. Without understanding why or how a program works, teachers may choose bad and poor of lessons, change their order, or ignore them out to frustrated students. Some teachers aren't sensitive to the program, like the one on personal lighting. South Tyrol's for one, is considering condensing its cur-

riculum program and implementing it in just two hours a week, half a year.

And some critics argue that grading kids on how much empathy they show also runs away from teaching them basic literacy and numeracy. Christina Hoff Sommers, author of *The Native Language*, agrees kids should be encouraged to cultivate common sense and independent moral judgment. "That is a good lesson, if you're teaching them to stand and history, you should talk about that," she says. She notes that CBT in a curriculum

Penn considers Seligman's program may be more useful than any, but it doesn't think it belongs in schools. "It's not in the business of teaching and diagnosing children," he says. "It's really the case that mental health is not a curriculum. It is that the way we make sense of children's lives has changed, become more psychological."

Some parents, at least, have found CBT principles to be a practical way to help kids out of it. When her 10-year-old son and only about a school project overwhelmed him,



DEVELOPING A BLACKBERRY into one more something that just happened in the school of life

FURED! SAYS HE'S ASTONISHED BY HOW EARLY KIDS NOW TALK ABOUT BEING STRESSED OR DEPRESSED

of the ancient philosophical concept of *Stoicism*. "We used to do this and call it *Stoicism*. A more recent way to do this might be to go back and introduce kids to *Stoicism*."

Others feel that emphasizing emotional deficits can be a self-fulfilling prophecy. "If every problem of existence is interpreted as a mental health issue, then children will be prone to play the part, feel that way," says Frank Furber, who wrote *Therapy Class*. Calcutta University in an interview. Age "It's surrounded by the ease with which children who are in or even or right already talk about being stressed out or depressed."

When your mother Sandy Nivens used some techniques she had learned from her school to help him through it. "Some kids just get it," she says. "It's like, 'there's no need for you to feel that way' and they say, 'oh, okay' and away they go. Other kids say 'well, but we need to do it, why can't we?'"

In the end, it will always be difficult to know how well the program works. Clinicians report that new kids who seem to "get it" may simply be regurgitating memorized material. When delivered in a classroom of 30 by a teacher inclined to think more in terms of learning than emotional development, resilience lessons may very well miss what is in fact quite an ambitious task—changing a child's personality. On the other hand, in a child's life, even a small change can go a long way. ■



WHEN A RULER ACROSS THE PALM JUST WON'T DO
Teacher: dirty kids could get a whole lot more meaning in life. When Senator Bob Bennett is saying the legislature to allow children in every classroom in the state. Some schools already post pictures in halls, but Bennett believes more needs to be done about recent incidents of gun violence around schools. "That's the problem," he says, "is a small percentage of the population is brought up without respect for guns."



Why are we dressing our daughters like this?



Eight-year-olds in fishnets, padded 'bralettes' and thong panties: Welcome to the Junior Miss version of raunch culture

BY LIANNE GEORGE • In his most recent viral tome, *Katfish School*, the famed American fashion photographer Steve O'Vreine examines the troubling power of the Catholic schoolgirl uniform—a fetish, his publication wrote, “as people sexually reorient as the black motorcycle jacket as the nation’s uniform.” The book also sketches the coming-of-age of Kat, a “beautiful Latina schoolgirl” whose sexual identity grows increasingly outlined for her pleated skirt and bubble socks. (It’s not the most original idea, maybe, but it’s a crowd-pleaser.) Kat’s wardrobe begins with flashes of raunchy underwear in a matter of pages, she’s model in her pencil skirt uniform for nothing but a pair of thigh-high spike-heeled boots. “I was experimenting with a symbol of sexuality, the untouchable, the ideal, the romantic notion

of the pure,” says O’Vreine, who feigns an earnest, earnestly earnest tone in the vision of most coffee-table literature in 2009 with these *American boys*. “That is what the uniform signifies.”

The book also signifies something rather less highly regarded—it’s a lacrosse ode to the cultural mass of the moment, the *Levi’s*. Shortly after it was launched last month, the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights registered its dispute in the *New York Post* (later which, not coincidentally, also of *Katfish School* quoted). And yet, the response was not entirely honest. Because if there was one icon symbol of the girl whose top-guns, it’s the schoolgirl uniform—and the Catholic community is well aware of it.



BRAZZE DOLLS, whose anastomosis are even more voluptuous than Berlusconi, have upstaged the old *Matilda* heroine

from the knee—as higher—and one Canadian uniform available even painted the K-kitt, with button shorts to protect girls from smooching their into misbehavior. So far, in Ontario alone, at least seven Catholic schools have word to phase out the garment altogether. “It always has been an issue,” says Ron Crocco, principal of St. Augustine Catholic High School in Markham, Ont., where the kilt was banned in 2009. “As a result, it’s difficult to enforce, to say ‘your kilt is too short. Because there, why am I looking there?’ In a post-*Britney* era, it seems, it’s just too sexy for school.

Now, then, to explain the low hanging pants, padded under tops and lace-trimmed skirts that so many young girls are wearing to class? In fact, in the broader inverse of childhood clothing. “Why are I looking there?” has become an increasingly pressing question. Streetwear for little girls has never been more overtly provocative. Girls as young as 6 are adopting the adult two-piece school set, adorning their school not only with hip glows and mid-pulls, but also body jewelry, thin glitters and spiky lace. Chloë Lohrey L., a 6-year-old from the United States, writes “super fabulous girl” ages 6

and up to brew "sprinkle-ups" makeover parties for their friends.

March 1982, American retailers like Seizoo Gals, Abercrombie & Fitch and Limited Too sell fishnet stockings, slinky jeans, message-pasties and padded "bikinis" in anticipation. In 1982, Abercrombie & Fitch launched its infamous black-thong collection, arguing that girls as young as 10 "are style-conscious and want underwear that doesn't produce a Visible Panty Line." (They have since dropped the line.) Earlier that month, the New York designer Marc Jacobs, having his cat of every growing-up homeboy in Hollywood, cupped 12-year-old Dakota Fanning, star of the newly released *Charlotte's Web*, so he be the face of his latest womenwear collection.

Meanwhile, in an odd inversion of the Lais trend, worn-out enough to retire can be using the trappings of gallantry, with varying degrees of tongue-in-cheek. Victoria's *Seaside* has a collection of these, including, with

names like "Angie" and "Pink." Stories such as "Pill Holes and Bittery Spoons" note around restaurants dogs in ruins—called Timberbell and Bel-Bel—as though they were once city-scafed animals. In her last novel, *Fragrances*, the character Fergie is dressed in a sound up Berwick uniform, a nonchalantly crooked of boogie popping. Bacon is discussed. Last month, the British writer Tessa Landis is her water over a pole-dancing kit for sale on her website. The lot, packaged in a pink plastic tube, featured an illustrated Barbie-type character and bubble letters that said: "Unleash the sea kisser inside." It was

randomly placed on the site's children's toy section, where it looked so utterly at home that none of the Web designers questioned it. Furthermore, clearly, we're in a moment where even the latest edifying "trends"—exemplified by Speers and Lindsay Lohan—are to impose one's persona, completely unaided, to look like a 10-year-old's, from the backseat of a car.

The accumulation of giftweed, once the stuff of Renaissance literature, Asian Exoticism, Japanese comic books and good old-fashioned American pragmatism, has been sweeping its way into the larger culture. Now it is one of our dominant aesthetics. In a 1994 film about culture, whether the gift is "any body or under developed, but is an precious" or "my here is untitled developed, but I am stretched," the message of the name, implied me: "For all who are, this notion of being kind of gift and innocent and actually pure, as well as very sexy, has been in me." (A non-sensory reviewer, says Lyle Maki Brown, co-author of *Packing my Giftweed: Knowing Our Daughters Use Markham's Schema*.) But whether it's because of the sanctification of culture or the extreme worship of youth, the trend has migrated

ever younger age groups. Add this to the fact that the physiological cause of puberty itself keeps inching downward, and the definitions of "girl" and "woman" have become moving targets. Which raises the question: what does it mean for little girls when the very things of their lives—dolls, puppies, angels, pink, princesses—become fetishized to the point of rendering these things obscene?

In stories marketing to young girls, a phenomenon that the authors of *Packaging Girlhood* have termed "the pink war" is always discernible. There's the sweet, innocent "princess" girl (fairy pink) and the sassy, naughty "diva" girl (hot pink). The two aesthetics are closely delineated in the selection of novelty T-shirts on offer. A "princess," for instance, would wear one of these scribbled across her chest: *Sweet Treats, Angel, Dazzle Girl, Official Cheer Smiley*. While a "diva" would opt for a more raucous, *The Double-Dutch* design.

Quercus, *Van Halen* De Witst!
 Say, and of course, *Parade*
 Wilson's adobe tag line:
That's How We Talk are
 just the beginning. It is the
 "total girl" marketers are
 after, *Van Halen* and *Wilson*
 Lamb in *Parade* Girlhood
 "Total girl" is marketers
 means finding every inch of
 their body to sell. They
 are "Expanding
 one's Black
 means not just

In her new video, pop star Fergie is dressed in a sexed-up Brownie uniform, surrounded by booty-popping Brownies

reaching down to the lower ages for good items introduced to the older ages, but finding new parts of their bodies to colonize or own. The newest parts, the forgotten parts, and

ONE RETAILER argued girls as young as 10 'are style-conscious and want underwear that doesn't produce a Visible Panty Line'

is neat, which should be dirty after a day of play" implicit in the various products available is a scary work that has never before been associated with children so young.

Or some think. The idea of children as innocent is a exclusively modern one. "Children are the great vessels of fantasy," says Anne Hladkauer, a New York-based clothing historian and author of the classic 1978 text *Seeing Through Clothes*. Historically, a mother was a little girl as a smaller, ungendered version of herself, and so a daughter should be dressed in her mother's image—and through most of history, she was. Up until the late 18th century, children, both male and female, were

outraged last fall when Labourers' children dressed like labourers, and society children dressed like their elders, in garments designed for their pomp and rigidity to encourage socially appropriate behaviour. Moreover, says Hollander, any children were dressed to look socially attractive so that heads of state in other countries might look at their parents and think, *hmm, they're like to marry that sweet thing*. "Girls of wealth low our doors and very fancying harder," she says. "The one on the paintings, all dressed to become off to Lonsdale Avenue and make their bed have any human bed, but make their

It was only with the advent of the Romantic period in the late 1700s that modern notions of childhood arose, inspired largely by the sentimental writings of the Swiss-born philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau. "As the 18th century took on its second half," says Hollander, "you have an idea that children are

o, is red-form,

As the Victorian age swept in, there was a stiffening of every body's clothing, but girls and women remained specially distinct. "It was very, very important that the girls wore short dresses and the ladies wore long dresses," says Hollander. "Girls wore their hair down in curls or braids and put their hair up at the time they got long dresses—whenever they were supposed to be marriageable. The idea was that children are

innocent. They don't have any sexuality, or don't want."

What we're seeing now, she says, is a reversion to pre-Enlightenment days, a time before children were innocent, when they were nothing but smaller versions of ourselves in every way. "We see back at the 17th century 'brat' attitude 'We're dressing little kids like adults and adults are dressing like little children. There's no distinction once again. A girl is a woman by the time she's 8 and a woman remains a girl and she's 40.'"

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"They are in the middle of numerous commercially created battles with their children," says Linn. "Battles about peak food, violent media, expensive brands and all sorts of things. It's hard, if not impossible, to say no all of the time."

The popular marketing spin—which, incidentally, is supposed to reassure parents in some way—is that it is kids who are “getting older or younger,” a theory called age competition, brought on by the fact that young people have never had access to so much information. But what we’re really seeing, says Lane, is marketers exploiting the natural tendency of young girls to want to emulate older girls, who appear to them to have more independence and sexual prestige.

In the end, then, it's not really a kid problem, but a grown-up problem. Because girls, looking the way they look, are only aping grown women, which serves to remind us of the futility and confusion surrounding what

book jobs and Brazilian waxes. "A tawdry, tarty, retrosexual version of female authority has become so ubiquitous, it no longer seems paradoxical," writes Levy. "What we once considered as a kind of sexual repression, as

now view as assuaging." More recently, the New York Times columnist Bob Herbert, inspired by an *Afternoon* issue in Faith T's shirt he came across that read "Who Needs A Brain When I Have These?", addressed what he calls a "disrespectful, degrading, contemptuous treatment of women" that has become "repulsive and so mainstream that it has just about lost an ability to

styles prescribe
in behaviours.
micro-miniskirt
great for
ing on the
key bars.

shock."
"This is some sort
of response to the furthest
movement," says Hollander. In

bet, it's got a trial-and-error component. In the '70s, as women prepared to invade the workplace on a mass scale, the most overt manifestation of the new societal phase was sartorial. "It meant throwing out the skirts and certainly girdles and doing so that you couldn't tell the difference between a man and a woman, except by very small things," she says. "The masculine wardrobe was entirely co-opted by women. Suits and shoulder pads defined curves. Breasts and bellies and hips were not in fashion."

The current hyper-feminine aesthetic, one could argue, is an over-reaction to the contradictions—almost dialectical relationship—of patriarchy and femininity that what may have been born of anger and disillusion has lost its revolutionary edge, and now young girls are learning that not-so-gorgeous lessons that their primary value lies in their worth as sex objects. “Just because we are post-feminist doesn’t mean we’re feminist,” writes Levy. “There is a widespread assumption that simply because my generation of women has the good fortune to live in a world touched by the feminist movement, that means everything we do is magically imbued with its spirit.”

EVEN BEFORE Britney, schoolgirl uniforms symbolized 'girl about to go wild.' Some

not-so-progressive women that their primary task for in this world as sex objects "just because we are post doesn't mean we are feminists," writes Levy. "There is a widespread assumption that simply because my generation of women has the good fortune to live in a world touched by the feminist movement, that means everything we do is magically imbued with its agenda."

The inches-down effect we're now seeing among very young girls has resulted in a Junior Miss version of anorexia culture. Watch kids sit up; these same behaviours is like looking at the larger culture through a fast-food mirror. On the body of a six-year-old, the disturbing aspect of an *Eat Clean!* T-shirt is amplified and twisted—and eventually devoid of any of the irony that makes it pseudo-moralising coming from a teenybop-selling pop star. "The problem is that girls are acquiring the trappings of maturity," Leiss says. "But they're experiencing their femininity in



Teewen and Lamb: "Before a girl has half a chance to reflect on issues of belonging and desirability, she is being confronted with a market that tells her she should be concerned about that—even when she's in *years 11-12*."

We tell girls that, in wanting those things, they're somehow negating the values in an essential way. It's expressed when a girl says, "wrote Brown and Sharon Lark, 'you think she'd be missing the T she got at the summer camp she went to, the music festival she attended at the Humane Society where she volunteers to walk the dogs. But instead they express 'authentic' rather than interests, skills, concerns, and 'holliness.'"

Worried, in its very construction, these words are full of behaviorism. It's an odd base to describe the essence of a person. And, for instance, is a person different to playing on the monkey bars. A hula hoop and a long, low monkey jump is rather essential to being cool and punk. "Write messages to anonymous girl," writes Brown and Lark, "says that it's preferable to pass on the beach rather than surf, to play rather than play, to decrease rather than increase."



The styles prescribe certain behaviours. A micro-miniskirt isn't great for playing on the monkey bars.



ONE RETAILER argued girls as young as 10 'are style-conscious and want underwear that doesn't produce a Visible Panty Line'



ONCE A WEEK, in scenes, Prison Break's Wentworth MILLER and I hang out in my living room. Who says crashers are just for kids?

My husband and my TV boyfriend

One is white-hot and low-maintenance. The other one's bewildered.

BY KIM MORTIMER • I might not need a TV boyfriend if adulthood, my career state and middle age hadn't combined to make me invisible. If, when I venture out of the house, I were to catch the eye of even one deeply male stranger, I might not have to resort with a certain handsome TV actor, for that.

I would also feel better with being ignored as public if my body didn't respond in an embarrassingly predictable manner on the rare occasions that I do encounter an appealing male. Such as when I was in a store recently with my teenage son, attempting to buy him a pair of sportswear, with bright eyes, few less said, and a handful of wry looks, focused me with a headcrack of a smile.

Though I realize my reaction, my confused body reacted to his phenomenon as if I'm going on the DNA of an alpha male who could father my next child: my face flushed, my posture straightened, my pulse quickened, I licked my lips, and I started making lame quips that caused my son to roll his eyes in response to the repellent idea of his mother flirting, by extent of lame quips or otherwise. That was when the stranger who had caught all this tinsel looked not at me, but

around me, one that makes our relationship work so well, is that I will never know him.

Yet, it's inevitable, though not likely, that I could one day meet him. If, let's say, he made another promotional appearance in Toronto to publicize *Prison Break*. But he did last spring. I'd know in advance where and when a television bit was going to be taped. I could strike out the location, ask for an autograph when he emerged, and maybe get a few picture takes of us together. His arm around my shoulders, a practiced police smile on his face, a nervous, in-the-moment happening operation on mine.

Yet that I should do any of the research required to nail down his itinerary, or the status-of-his team required, or the approach my agent in hand. No me, a busy and tired woman with a career and household responsibilities and two kids to wrangle and a few shreds of personal dignity left. The point is that I could, possibly, cast the object of my affection, and if I did, for 30 seconds or a minute, and spoke to him, and had a picture and autograph to show for it afterwards, I still wouldn't know him.

The certainty that I haven't a chance is hell on earth with Went as what makes my husband, E, accept that I have a boyfriend at all. Though acceptance may not quite be what E demonstrated when he took the opportunity at recent family dinner-on-

more than one occasion, and on more than one side of the family—to announce to the assembled generation that I have a TV boyfriend and his name is Wentworth Miller. One might also question whether there isn't a case against a suspension of E's voice when he asks how often I visit Internet sites dedicated to the other stars in my life. Or when he catches me down loading a video or audio clip of Went that was originally broadcast on French television or Seattle radio, and says, "Are you out of your mind?"

I'll answer a little unhelpfully, according to some outdated last-century middle-class standards, then, so do the crimes with whom I share my obsession, as hobby I'm a stalker lurker on the message boards at The Free Church of Wentworth Miller website, where a global community of regulars, biding from five continents, make daily postings. They're a funny, creative and technologically gifted bunch who've produced creative fan vids, screen captures and photo mixes, introduced me to what those strange new things are, and were hip early to YouTube and Flickr,

and even more their devotion. And resources! With two-impairing said, these women have trailed down to her's senior college thesis, located and analyzed new candid photos of the instant they appear online, and travelled cross-country to attend his public appearances.

The stakes of my stalker in adult manhood

MY FACE FLUSHED AND I STARTED MAKING LAME FLIRTY QUIPS THAT CAUSED MY SON TO ROLL HIS EYES

and answer, but I am not in their frantic league. I have not, for example, downloaded an impulse I had, upon publication of my latest novel, to send a 50 Went, one of the show's production company, along with a note begging the book as an unaltered literary bangle (his college major was English literature, wouldn't you know) with which he could while away a few hours during the long break on the set.

I still could, though. When I found that idea by my husband, he said I was delusional to even consider it. I countered by rolling him to go with the

thrust—supporting every woman's right to have a TV boyfriend in what's expected of modern enlightened men who are one with the current pop cultural moment. And hey, I could have a TV girlfriend, too, if he wanted. I wouldn't mind.

E gave up the battle, but he had some last questions. "Just to be embarrassed," he asked, "in your age, to have what amounts to a teenage crush on some artist?"

No and no. Unrequited crushes of my kind, he flows, just on a friendly like, a moribund, but less so when you don't know the guy and never will. Plus, why says crushes are just for kids? My plan for aging, undisturbed by demand, is to ignore conventional ideas of what constitutes age-appropriate behavior and say so and do what I please. That's why, with E's resigned blessing, any time I want to bask in the cooler male gaze of a beautiful man, I need only turn on my computer, bring up an image of my TV boyfriend, blow up large on my screen, and swoon away. ■

Kim Mortimer's fourth novel, *The Illustration of Emily*, was recently published on CBC Radio's Between the Covers.



SOME INDIVIDUALS NEVER CHANGE CAREERS OR HOMES

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LOVE BLOODS AMONG THE SQUISHED CARS

It was half-time at a monster truck rally in Bakersfield, Calif., last Saturday when bride Ashley Barlow, wearing a red dress, made a midcourse turn the centre of an arena to join hands with her groom, Michael Bar. They had won "Mashed-Up Monster Truck Marriage" a radio contest run by online minister Janel "Headbush" Mann. After the couple wed in front of monster truck "Shave Digger" the bride declared, "My dreams have come true."

PHOTOGRAPH BY JACQUELYN CLARKE

THE YEAR IN PICTURES

Maclean's presents the most provocative and compelling photos of 2006





- 1 The Czech Republic's Olga Pivovarova and Kenel short-jumps at the European Figure Skating Championships in Lyon, France.
- 2 An Indonesian landslide victim in the village of Kenel cringes as a corpse while waiting to be buried.
- 3 Former WorldCom CEO Bernard Ebbers, leaving a Manhattan court after appearing his conviction and 25-year sentence for his involvement in the US\$1 billion fraud that destroyed the company.
- 4 Sima, a rescue dog, greets his in the animal welfare dog training near the Bawitara line of Gemprok-Partuturina.
- 5 Reilly President Joe Morrissey (left) receives a replica of the sword used by South American independence fighter Simon Bolivar from Venezuela President Hugo Chavez.
- 6 Two days after this performance in St. Bonifacio, Mass., Paul Martin and his Liberal Party colleagues are booted from power by the Stephen Harper-led Conservatives.



1 Israeli security officers met with major resistance from Jewish settlers when evacuating the West Bank outpost of Amniot.
2 Canada's Cindy Klassen heads for a bronze in the 1,000 m—one of her record five-medal haul at the Winter Olympics in Turin.



3 A bullfighter deftly eludes a charge during the opening ceremony of the ninth annual world bull fair in Sevilla.
4 One of two protesters killed by government soldiers near Uganda's capital of Kampala, a week before the election.



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APRIL



- 1 Kim Jong Il with a regiment of the Korean People's Army
- 2 Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks of international concern by declaring Iran a member of the "club of nuclear countries."
- 3 Prince Charles explores a nature reserve in Scotland
- 4 Stephen Harper gets assessed by a six-month-old in Banbury, B.C., where he was discussing his government's child care plan



START BELIEVING.

OLYMPUS

SOURCE: CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY; AP/WIDEWORLD; GETTY IMAGES; GARY COOPER/REUTERS; JEFFREY M. HARRIS/REUTERS



1. Desperate Housewives star Eva Longoria wows the crowd at an events gala in L.A. featuring Latinos in film, TV and music.
2. After arriving on a makeshift boat from Africa, a vocal-led immigrant crowd on a beach on Spain's Canary Islands soaks up the sun.
3. Dump an emotional four-day visit to Poland, Pope Benedict XVI visits Auschwitz, the former Nazi death camp.
4. Bush and Blair showed a united front on Iraq—a stance that proved damaging to the popularity of both men back home.
5. Members of the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Our Savior—a group of ultra-conservative nuns in upstate New York.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES; PHOTOS: JEFFREY MAYER; PHOTOS: JEFFREY MAYER; PHOTOS: JEFFREY MAYER; PHOTOS: JEFFREY MAYER; PHOTOS: JEFFREY MAYER



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- 1 Spain's Pablo Ibañez nearly got booted in the head during a second-round World Cup match in Hannover against France.
- 2 The Bushes await the arrival of Japan's PM Junichiro Koizumi—a lifelong Elton Presley fan—for a trip to Managua, Nicaragua.
- 3 One of the 16 terror suspects who were allegedly planning an "Al Qaeda-inspired" bombing campaign in Ontario.



On July 26, at RCMP Const. Beanie Cameron's funeral at the Beverly's and Osaminis First Nation in Saskatchewan, Cameron and Const. Marc Bourgeois were fatally shot following a chase near Spiritwood, Sask.

CHUCK D'ALBA/GETTY IMAGES; 2: SCOTT McLELLAN/REUTERS; STEVE GRANITZ/GETTY IMAGES/REUTERS



TRAVEL



RELIGION



SPORTS



FAMILY



CRIME



COMEDY

ISSUES IN EVERY ISSUE.

MACLEAN'S
MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL.



1. A Palestinian woman mourns during the funeral of a well-known infant who was killed in an Israeli air strike in the Gaza Strip.
2. An insider from a top Israeli attacks plane shows Beirut, two Lebanese men watch Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah on TV.

3. Israeli soldiers take cover as artillery units fire shells into Lebanon from a position near Beirut. In the background, a tank is visible.
4. Air strikes—based throughout Israel and Lebanon's five-week conflict—interrupt a funeral in the Israeli city of Tel Aviv.



1. Marines leave the Canadian Forces base in Tinsion, Ont., after a ceremony honoring four members of Edmonton's Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry killed in Afghanistan.
2. Premier Ralph Klein's last day in the Alberta legislature (Klein 50 left him looking up. Klein spent 14 years in charge, and while some of it was rocky, he will long be remembered for turning a province drowning in red ink into the country's strongest provincial economy.
3. During a UN-brokered ceasefire between Lebanese and Israeli, thousands returned to the neighbourhoods in Lebanon they'd evacuated, only to find their homes ravaged by war.
4. Donald Rumsfeld's second last day in the Kuwaiti armed services commission on Iraq, Afghanistan and the war on terror. Three months later, following the Republican's November election failure, Rumsfeld, under intense public pressure for his handling of Iraq, resigned as secretary of defence.
5. Tiger Woods celebrates at the 83rd annual PGA Championship, where he finished 16-under. Despite missing the cut at the U.S. Open, his first major after the death of his dad, Earl, Woods won eight of 15 PGA events in '04.



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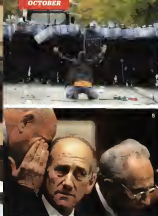




- 2 Canadian soldiers leave a dead in a sub-flooded Gulf of Mexico.
- 3 Canadian soldiers leave a dead. Ft. Hark Andrew Graham, Iraq, November 2003. Photo by Randy Rice, earlier that day.
- 4 Senegalese Payne attended the repatriation of his stepson, Col. David, killed by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan. Payne is escorted by Amador's brother, Col. Gina Trautler.
- 5 Fidel Castro, who resisted his 500th birthday bash due to illness, shares a laugh with Argentine politician Miguel Angel Riquelme.
- 6 Former Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos shows the artist of her late husband, dictator Ferdinand Marcos, near Manila.
- 7 Dutch artist, from Frankfurt, Ir., takes Kailash, the Canada goose he found on his front lawn earlier this year, out for a fly.
- 8 Women attend a rally for Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.
- 9 Marking the 50th anniversary of 9/11 in New York City.



1. Clashing at Montreal's Dawson College on Sept. 15 left one student dead and 10 injured. The 1900s Kitchener GR, then shot himself.

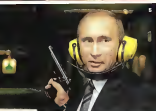


1. Hungarian police, with tear gas and rubber bullets, clashed with anti-government protesters disrupting 50th anniversary celebrations marking the country's anti-Nazi uprising. In tears he died to the press in September, Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsány admitted to lying to his re-election.
2. Turkish special forces are dropped by an army helicopter into a parade in Ankara, celebrating the 63rd anniversary of the foundation of the Turkish republic.
3. Tony Blair applauds a speech on climate change made in London by British Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown.
4. In an effort to curtail sectarian violence, a U.S. soldier from the 172nd brigade searches a house in eastern Baghdad.
5. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert sits through a parliamentary session soon after winning cabinet approval for a far-right coalition to join the government, which some say denies any chance of peace in the near future with the Palestinians.



CLIMATE CHANGE





- 1 Pope Benedict XVI and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I arrive at the St. George Church in Istanbul, Turkey, the most controversial papal visit in years.
- 2 Mexican lawmakers scuffle near the podium of Congress Hall in Mexico City, as leftist legislators, supporting Andrés Manuel López Obrador, tried to forcefully prevent the inauguration of conservative president-elect Felipe Calderón.
- 3 Former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein yells out in court as a bullet fired to silence him. A visibly shaken Hussein was found guilty of crimes in both Iraq and was sentenced to hang by a U.S.-backed civilian court in Baghdad.
- 4 British actor Sacha Baron Cohen shocked the Hollywood establishment when his low-budget comedy *Borat: Cultural Learnings of How America Really Is... F---s the World* of Kazakhstan was a box-office smash around the world.
- 5 Russian President Vladimir Putin presides in a shooting, rally at the new GGU military intelligence headquarters in Moscow. Putin spent much of the year using the country's oil wealth and military might to intimidate neighbours and political foes.



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The gears of the Liberal party's post-election loss are grinding the stage in Montreal after Stephen Harper's surprise leadership win.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM O'NEILL

'I DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL. I'M TRASH. BUT GOD HAS GIVEN ME A GIFT.'—JAY BAKKER

JAY BAKKER SON OF A PREACHER FINDS HIS OWN FAITH

"You think speaking out on behalf of the gay community and gay Christians is what I should do?" recalls Jay Bakker, 31, the only son of evangelist Jim and Tammy Faye, in a six-part documentary, *Dear Pastor Under God II*. It follows Bakker, the talented and pious founder of Revolution Church ("for those who feel rejected by religion") as he copes with his liberal Christian missionary life quakes around with his evangelist father and his mother, who is dying of cancer. "I'm trying to get around all the baggage and the lies and the don'ts," says Bakker, comparing himself to the more prescriptive style of traditional evangelists. And he doesn't want to become a TV personality. "I dropped out of high school. I can barely write. I'm white trash. I wear leather boots and tattoos," he said years ago. "But God has given me a gift—to relate to people and see the common sense of the Bible."



PETER GARRETT FROM PROTEST MUSIC TO PARLIAMENT

The former Motley Crue front man known for his angry "bad as I'm being" lyrics has crossed over from activist to front-bench politics. Peter Garrett was named the Australian Labour Party's shadow minister for climate change and the environment recently by new party leader Kevin Rudd. The 51-year-old Garrett has been a rising political force since the band's breakup in 2002. He became a parliament member in 2004, and now his appointment to the front benches, as opposed to his previous role as secretary to see how he'll manage concrete issues of policy such as forest protection and expansion of unemployment benefits. Known for his outrage, Garrett must also balance political reality without being seen as the latest environmentalist sellout.



MYRIAM RÉDARD STRANGE 'ADVENTURES'

Person of the Year nominee Myriam Réardard publicly expressed concern last week that their daughter may be in peril. Réardard left for the U.S. in October with her companion, sculptor Nina Mushin, and 13-year-old daughter, Maude, of whom she spoke anxiously with her ex-husband, Jacques Piquet. In early December, Québec City police issued a warrant for Réardard's arrest on suspicion of abduction, following a complaint from Piquet. Réardard, who has a history of strange behavior, defended Mushin, after he was charged last year for the death of 20 persons worth more than \$100,000. Réardard's sister, Chantal, believes that Mushin is the source of the trouble. "She fell under the control of this man who probably had the knack of knowing how to speak to her, and he got her involved in all kinds of adventures," Chantal said.



IRWANDI YUSUF A NEW ERA FOR TROUBLED ACEH

With a commanding lead in early election results for governor, the former spokesman of Indonesia's Free Aceh Movement (GAM) now faces the task of actually governing a province he's long fought for. Thirty years of war between Irwandi Yusuf's forces in Aceh and government troops left 15,000 dead. And the region has barely made any progress rebuilding after the 2004 tsunami took the lives of 170,000 people. Yusuf had been in prison at the time but escaped during the tsunami mayhem. Jakarta agreed talks with the GAM last year, opening a new era of stability. With the promise of sustained order, Yusuf this week signalled one direction he intends not to take: He is firmly opposed to Islamic law enforcement, which would have included amputating thieves' hands.



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THE BACK PAGES

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dazzling diva
BY J

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airport reading
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A beholding
at the opera
BY J

taste

Little humans
on the prowl
BY J

fashion

Do I look fat in
this light?
BY J

bazaar

Bring your
dog around
BY J

film

Rocky III's a complete
change for you, Rock. He's
different.
Rocky IV's lead, he's about
now, and he looks like he could
kill me. All my opponents are like that.
Rocky V took, but this one's white!

—Mia Farrow

Rocky Balboa is a washed-up fighter, barely registered, with only the ever-pregant Babe (Burt Young) as a friend. Suddenly he gets one last shot to prove himself: a chance to take on the reigning world champion, in a fight no one else, Rocky seems to take seriously.

That's the plot of the original *Rocky*, the movie that won the Oscar for Best Picture 34 years ago. And it's also the plot of writer-director-star Stallone's new movie, *Rocky Balboa*, the sixth movie in the series. But this one was thing has changed. Rocky, and most of us, were about the hopes and dreams of Stallone's audience. Rocky Balboa is more like Stallone's personal justification for still making movies. And the strange thing about Stallone, now 66, is that the man's personal he gets, the less of an impact his movies have.

Not that Stallone's trying to excuse the same impact as the original movie. He's brought back the same basic conflict: Rocky is the underdog against a big African American fighter. This time it's heavyweight champ "Mason" Dixon (real-life boxer Antonio Tarver), who's frequently introduced by story as a top hop music. The dominance of African Americans in the world of boxing has always given rise to the "protector trope" phenomenon—the search for a white fighter who can win—and all but one of the *Rocky* movies feature Rocky in that role.

Stallone got this idea from a real-life fight with the same dynamic: a 1975 bout where Chuck Wepner, a little-known white heavyweight from New Jersey, put to his upstart world champion Muhammad Ali in a match that not even Ali took seriously. Wepner, whose website bilk him as "The Real Rocky," wrote: "Don King told me that Ali made little things and buzzes that I put out around the ring. That said, 'Lad, you're the white guy I hate!'" Wepner showed everyone by losing almost the full of rounds with Ali, and Stallone had a movie script. He also memorably had a lawsuit from Wepner, who said he was getting paid for the use of his story.

Some critics have been squeasy about Stallone's portrayal of humble African American

villains who need to be taken down a peg or two by a white fighter. When Rocky came out, Vincent Canby of the *New York Times* made the most blunt accusation about the casting of Rocky's battle with Apollo Creed, a thinly disguised Muhammad Ali surrogate: "By making the Ali-like fighter such a dog," he wrote, "the film explores areas of latent racism that just may not be all that latent." More recently, in his book *Babes* (Doubt), Jennifer Lee Quisenberry found that it was a symbol of everything that about the '70s that America could embrace "a movie as virulently (other subliminally) racist as *Rocky II*."

In 'Rocky Balboa,' Sylvester Stallone seems to have lost the eye of the tiger

BY JAMIE J. WEINMAN

ROCKY RETURNS. BUT WHY?



IN *ROCKY BALBOA*, left and above, Stallone fights real-life boxer Antonio Tarver

But the things that made some critics go badly about Rocky were the same things that made it so timely. The film appeared at a time when there was a lot of controversy over the issue of affirmative action for African Americans. And it was in 1976 that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *University of California v. Bakke*, that more formal affirmative action against white people. Even *Ali* as the *Rocky*, the most cross-racially liberal TV show of the

decade, didn't escape that year when Michael (Burt Young) is turned down for a job that goes to a minority applicant. And Wepner acknowledged this state of the cheering he got from audiences may have had something to do with his color. "I think that worked in my favor," I accepted that. I understood there might be a reason. But I told you what, I know a lot of white people who were rooting for Muhammad Ali, including my wife."

In an article in *Jeep* Car magazine in the late '70s, writer Michael Galasso pointed out that several scenes in *Rocky* were crafted to have a lot of resonance for what would eventually be called the Angry White Male. In an early scene in the movie, the old man Rocky (Burt Young) decides to give Rocky's father a younger, more promising fighter—an African American fighter. Rocky's anger at being displaced, Galasso wrote, "weighing both for those workers who fear that despite seniority, their jobs may be

in jeopardy to the supposed

demand for affirmative action."

If Stallone was bothered

by those attacks, he didn't

show it. He's never been too

fond of mass, anyway. With-

ing that Antiochian can can

bar that month, he declared:

"There are certain vendic-

tards that have finally dis-

posed agenda against race,

therefore, they put a cloud

over the project and try to

conspire and entrap people

to their opinion." And so, far

from being critical of previous, he even went a little further with the black vs. white narrative in *Rocky IV*, where Rocky's opponent is Gilder Looney character (introduced Mr. T) and his catchphrase "I pay the fief!" Chubb gives no thought to strategy, and his main method of winning is to scare people into submission. He even goes Rocky into a fight by making advances on Rocky's wife—"You was a real man!"

And yet, despite all the accusations, the *Rocky* movies weren't just as even popular as a great white hope fantasy. Even Galasso, a forerunner of the movie's racial politics, was compelled to admit that "Good King led to undesired stereotypes." Part of what was intriguing about the first two movies was the racial role reversal. In *Apollo Creed*, we had a black character who embodied many of the stereotypes the movies normally associated with white villains: He's rich, cynical and anti-hyper-junkie (he's to rejoin the public. He's his own man and he's nobody's fool, in his own way, he's kind of noble, something Stallone acknowledged by bringing Creed back as

a good guy in *Rocky II*.
Then more importantly,
Stallone was a good enough
page-of-the-silence villain
when all the blacks—where
still had been played out. In 1985, the action
movie actor was less worried about
affirmative action and more worried about
Communism. The concern was that
white males were being pushed aside but
that all of America might suffer due date.
And so, in *Rocky IV*, Stallone battles a badly
upbeat Russian fighter, Ivan Drago (played
by Dolph Lundgren).

Apparently gravely inspired by the
Boxiters to take over the boxing world for
the glory of Communism, Drago is the per-
fect exception for the way the Soviet Union
was seen near the end of its existence: big,
mean and apparently unstoppable in a vision
of Apollo Creed. Lundgren, who also ap-



ROCK 'EM ROCK 'EM (From top clockwise):
Rocky IV (1985), the original *Rocky* (1976),
Rocky II (1979) with Mr. T, *Rocky V*

posed in such "Yes man-Communist evil
clashes in Jack Abramoff's *Ad Scorpions*,
and I think he wanted to capitalize on the
fact that Reagan was in office, and there
was a big Cold War arms race buildup."

And so, in 1985, Rocky came along to
strike a blow for America the way he once
struck a blow for lower-class white guys.
"Whether it was a revenge story living
against their peers, I don't know," Lundgren
says, "but the competition worked."

Flash forward to 2006. The Cold War is
over, and the biggest fear—Islamic terror-
ism—wasn't really something Stallone can
address on boxing screen. So what does Stall-
one address in *Rocky Balboa*? If Apollo Creed
represented the rapidly rising African Ameri-
can, and Drago represented Communism,
what does Mason Dixon represent? Well,
nothing really. As played by David, Dixon
has an enigmatic quality; director Scott is
not even a *Rocky* fan, like Mike Tyson.
[who makes a cameo]. Stallone tries to inter-
pose some sympathy for Dixon by showing us that
he's being exploited by his greedy white mas-

agers; they're the real villains of the piece,
not him. He's not a villain, he's a function-
ary shown up, fights Rocky, but he doesn't
stand in for anything bigger than himself.
Advance reaction to the movie has, of
course, focused less on second issues than on
the story: what is Stallone doing making
another Rocky movie at this age? The project
has been met with awe, the idea of which
we won't accept until tomorrow. And does
Stallone have it? "Everyone in the dance
lounge and board," wrote TV writer and



**THE THINGS THAT MADE SOME
CRITICS GET HUFFY ABOUT
'ROCKY' WERE THE SAME THINGS
THAT MADE IT SO TIMELY**



blogger Ken Levine about reaction to the
Rocky follow-up: "When is Stallone going
to give it up? It's old already. Like watching
80-year-old Paul Anka sing *Puppy Love*."

But that's exactly the point of *Rocky Balboa*,
if he's anyone at all. The Rocky of the new
film is an old, washed-up fighter reduced to
running a restaurant and telling stories about his
glory days. He's eddy like Stallone him-
self, whose glory days might also seem to be
behind him. [He isn't; he had a big career, and
he hasn't written a movie by himself since
the flip-flop *V* ("I don't want too much for
that one," Wilson comments). When Rocky
decides to accept the challenge to fight the
champion, all the other characters—including
his own son—think he's not only wrong but
ridiculous. They accuse him of interrupting a

comeback to study his own ego, exactly what
critics are saying about Stallone.

So Rocky has something to prove, just as
Stallone does that at his age, he's still rele-
vant. But that message has more resonance
for Stallone himself than it does for a mass
audience. Rocky was about the white guy in
an affirmative action world, and Rocky IV
was about America in the Cold War, but Rocky
Balboa is just about the struggle of one man.

That comes through even in the way the
movie treats the supporting characters. In the
original *Rocky*, the character's triumph
reflected not only his but the people around
him. At *Anticlimax* on *Stallone* wrote:
"I've always thought of Rocky as an individual
that was chosen to take a journey that
would bring together broken people,
including himself." But in *Rocky Balboa*,
though we do see a few "broken people"—
like Rocky's son, who's trying to get out of his



father's shadow—the film spends little time
on the son's then journey. It's too busy show-
ing Stallone and Antonio Davis slug it out.

That helps explain why Rocky Balboa, even
though it is all the best Rocky movies
[and using Bill Costello's comic material theme
for the inevitable winning scene], has no
more triumph of the human spirit, no more
uplift. For all the controversy around his
treatment of racial issues, Rocky spoke to
a segment of society that felt pushed around,
and showed how they could get back their
self-respect; if a guy is in his 40s Rocky could
do it, anybody could. But Rocky Balboa has
low margins for sympathy under 60, and
maybe no message for anybody except
Stallone.

Still, if *Rocky* doesn't get much respect
from the critics, he's got at least one admirer:
Chuck Wepner, the guy who said him. Wep-
ner, like Stallone, is a guy something who
did his best work in the '70s, but he thinks
Stallone deserves more respect. "I think *Rocky*
is a brilliant writer and a terrific story-
teller," he says. "Robert De Niro or Al Pacino,
but he's an actor actor."

No wonder Stallone gave Wepner an out-
of-court settlement. ■



DREAMGIRLS (From left): Anika Nisi-Ross, Beyoncé Knowles, Jennifer Hudson. The movie received five Golden Globe nominations.

Duelling divas, onscreen and off

**As 'Dreamgirls' revives that Motown mojo,
real-life rivalries match the ones in the movie**

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

Something extraordinary happened in the pre-
miere of *Dreamgirls* in New York earlier this
month. After watching Jennifer Hudson bel-
ting out, show-stopping numbers, I'm Telling
You I'm Not Going, the 1,000-strong audience
gave her a standing ovation—in the middle of
the movie. Adapted from the 1981 Broadway
musical of the same name, *Dreamgirls* is a
showbiz fable loosely based on the story of the
Supremes. It's about how talent is sprayed
by glamorous ambition manager (Jamie Foxx)
greases a female trio for success—showing
aside the dark danger [Hudson] to push a pre-
tier star (Beyoncé Knowles) into the spot-
light. In the Supremes, that face was Diana
Ross, and the talented under star was Florence
Ballard, who died impoverished at 32. And
now, 35 years after Ross snubbed the *Dream*
way musical, the backstage drama swirling
around the movie finds what's common.

It's real-life fairy tale of three divas—the
roughly analogous Miss Ross rising into that
"minor, minor on the wall," the beautiful Be-
yoncé, a pop star launching her Hollywood
career by playing Ross's own in *Dream*, and
Hudson, a former American Idol final-
ist who in the *Dreamgirls* role of Ballard, the singer
best on Ballard. So far, Ross has refused to
comment on the film. She was invited to the
premiere—after a well-publicized kerfuffle
over her invitation going away—but she did
not attend. And now *Dreamgirls* is seen as
a cross-nature in the Oscar race, Holly-
wood in rife with speculation over whether
Ross will break her silence on an attempt to
scarify Beyoncé's chance for a nomination.

It's remarkable how faithfully the showbiz
politics of the *Dreamgirls* story are reflected

off screen. In the role of Foxx, the ugly duck-
ling who goes down fighting, Hudson goes
to solve her own controversial exposure in an
American Idol incident who was voted out of
competition—unfairly according to guest
judge Ellen DeGeneres. In the movie, as an actor
and singer, she blows virtually everyone else
off the screen, including Beyoncé and Foxx,
an Oscar-waiting champion. Hudson's in-
surance as *Dreamgirls* far exceeds what was
being American Idol might have done for her.
Last week, she received a Golden Globe nomi-
nation, one of five that went to *Dreamgirls*.

Although life in the movie's timeline,
Beyoncé is the bigger star; she's nominated for
best actress while Hudson is up for a sup-
porting role. At Oscar time, that same peck-
ing order will prevail, but if Beyoncé gets
nominated for best actress, she won't stand
a chance against Helen Mirren (*The Queen*)
and Penelope Cruz (*Volver*). Hudson, how-
ever, has a fighting chance to win support-
ing actress. And Sidney Poitier, the movie's
other prominent actor-veteran, is a strong
contender for supporting actor.

If Hudson is the breakout performance
of the year, Murphy's is the great come-
back performance. He's cast as a no-nonsense
LeRoi Jones named "Thunder." Early, a
Beyoncé player son of James Brown, Little
Richard and Marvin Gaye, Ross's character—

a version of Motown's most famous Berry
Gordy—was controversial: Jones as a cocaine
fixer, one outrageous scene, as James dishes
his lounge act on a date and turns back into
an overboarded sex machine, Murphy does
everything but sit himself as Ray.

The other showbiz fable behind *Dream-*
girls involves writer-director Bill Condon,
who had wanted to film the musical ever
since he sat in the opening night audience
on Broadway. Condon scripted the Oscar-
winning musical *Chicago*, but the two
movies he directed, *Cats* and *Monsters and
Men*, were a disaster the size of *Dreamgirls*.
Still, he persuaded mogul David Geffen to
trust him with the property, this story of black
music created by a bunch of gay white men.

While *Dreamgirls* brings an edifying
blast of nihil from its wet, tawny and tor-
rid that dominates the year's "profiteer" movies,
its moments of soulful candor [Condon has
some critics there to the musical—spelling
out the story of the Detroit riots] And Ray,
the story illuminates a vital chapter in black
American history. *Dreamgirls* may be the first
movie without almost entirely African Ameri-
can cast that didn't intend to play to massive
minorities in audience. Combine it with the
year's Africa thriller—*The Last King of Scot-*
land, *Catch A Fire* and *Blood Diamond*—and
we could see a record number of Oscar wins
in exchange for UNICEF money. (There's been different story, and it's
stunned for Hollywood blues nothing better
than a tale of shadowed dreams come true. ■



WE'RE STALKING YOKO ONO

The video artist may have been the victim of an overreaction led by
her own widow, Yoko Kaseki. Police claim the chauffeur had said
her, 75, then he had photos and tapes that would be highly im-
portant to her, but he would make sure they'd never surface.
In exchange for UNICEF money, Kaseki has been different story, and it's
stunned for Hollywood blues nothing better than a tale of shadowed dreams come true. ■



ANY DISABILITIES who see any Dutch aspects in Crichton's new novel? Here, set on the brink of a trans-human or post-human future,



CRIVINGTON HAS PUNY is not hard talking about a "Heavenly Half" given, in which nonconformists, in particular, are prone

Much more than an airport novelist

Reading Michael Crichton is like getting a preview of the next generation's clichés

BY MARK STEIN

The title of Michael Crickson's new novel, *Nort*, would be a grand title for his collection of war. He has a remarkably mannered way of revealing the dark tragic side of war but also looking at it on the new stage, across the line that separates today's headlines from tomorrow's whose new world? He is elegantly good at the consequence of the fragility of the time, the intersection of the technological, legal, political and cultural forces in society and the way they oppress, manipulate and shape from one life and to another until everything that would once have sounded ancient is now routine. In *Nort*, for example, a celebrity discotee army stumbling through a yowvie-filled meeting with some subtle outland of a genetic research goes suddenly into the possible.

"What did you just say?"

"I said 'I want my wife tested...'"

1999

¹For what?

"Ah," Larry said, nodding wisely. "What the hell was the guy talking about? Generic testing? In a custody case — ?"

"For example," David said. "I've lost my wife. I have a genetic predisposition to bipolar disorder. She certainly was creative. She might have got Alzheimer's, too."

"Good, very good," Harry Sender was nodding vigorously now. This was making him happy. First, no disputed areas. Sender loved disputed areas. Whatever the test result, they would be disputed. Those days in court, more expert witnesses to interview, battles of the documents, dragging on for days. Days in court were constantly lucrative.

sorting could become standard procedure for all statistical cases.

Don'ts that sound not just plausible but inevitable? And that's before they've even identified half the genes worth looking over. The best Christian otoids are like the DNA double helix—sprawls of science and media, genes and huckstering that twist in and out of each other.

To be sure, he is an airport novelist, in the sense that airport bookstores are piled high with his books. But for the most conventional

THIS IS ALL A BIT OF HARMLESSLY LOW
PAYBACK FOR THOSE ECO-BONES WHO
ATTACKED HIM FOR HIS LAST NOVEL.

part of Neri in the pastimes, in which a couple of persons dance on a puny stage and a Ullman on a hooker through a landmark Wagon wheel— all pay phones and confused chairs (through exasperated Mollers and frantic pushing of elevator buttons. And it ends in death. It's like reading a great description of some movie. But where Christiana goes after that is all his own—meant to goe further or less, mock newspaper reports (very much as in the case of the *New York Times* cartoon-prince style), and modifiers of peculiarity (emphasizing *travio-jargua*. Take this passage. In a word, it's nothing special—a new

ing between a lawyer and a genetic researcher. But to be able to pull off the detail at this level is impossible.

The attorney consulted a notepad "Has been considered in a patent application from 1995 for aminocarbonylmethylene urethane hydrolyzable polymer or ACMHD. The patent claims effects on neurotransmitter potentials in the central nervous system."

"That's the mode of action," Josh said, "for any character ever."

The "maturity gene" is an example of what one might call the grandeur of life. Crichton also unveils a "sociability gene"—formerly a "conventional gene" (1).

a grandfather and to be boringly conventional behavior'), but that name didn't focus-group well. There was

Why, then, did Neanderthals die out? The answer, according to Professor Sheridan, lies with the University of Wisconsin, was that the Neanderthals carried a gene that led them to resist change. "Neanderthals were the first environmentalists. They created a lifestyle in harmony with nature. They hunted game, hunted, and they controlled tool use. But the same thing also made them intensely conservative and resistant to change."

That is a lot of heartily low payback for those who once attacked Crook for his last novel, *State of Fear*, a gloomy account of

the narrow-buckram that's full of facts and tragically explicable to those not inclined to the climate-change culture. There's one scene in which Crichan delivers a very apt sermon for a blathered Hollywood activist. They're easy targets, of course, but Crichan's prose achieves a rare poetry in its account of a man unaware of how profoundly unaware he is.

Nor is it a different kind of novel. It is a book set on the brink of a trans-human if not post-human future, in which courts in Sumatra can starehale across an ocean to where specific dissent Dutch and the sense of California can interconnect flourish to solve you or cells and, on balance, the conanpan seems to enjoy more legal protection than you do. It's fitting that in a novel in which humanity is a commodity, every character is a human character.

CRICHTON IS ALWAYS TOSSING IN SOME FRESH
NEW HIGH-TECH ANGLE THAT TAKES YOU BY
SURPRISE AND YET SEEMS UTTERLY LOGICAL.

Heart is a saint, in which selectivity and selectiveness play assorted virtues, husbands, wives, brothers and parents live in and out of focus, sliding in and out of the alibi of a life in a critically dark territory. They're life people caught up on something big, and as Crichlow knows through the usual scenarios—infidelity, drug abuse, suicide, rage—some human souls find new light, just as he does that takes you by surprise and yet seems utterly logical: the effort is to let go and on a scheme to prove of the next generation's children. Consider, for example, the interlude between chapters 9 and 10, as you see from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MIT scientists have grown a human ear in mouse culture for the first time. The effort could be considered "a partial life form—partly constructed and partly grown." The ear fits comfortably in the palm of the hand.

Several hearing-aid companies have opened talks with MIT about licensing their ear-mold ear neckpieces. According to scientist Zach

And, "North American populations aged many decades cohorts may prefer to grow slightly reduced, potentially modified ears, rather than rely on hearing-aid technology." "Apathetic for Audion, the hearing-aid company, noted, "We're not talking about Deaf ears. Just a small increase of 20 per cent in pressure will would double auditory efficiency. We think the market for enhanced ears is huge. When lots of people have them, we are well sorted customers. We believe big ears will become the new standard, like often breast implants."

Which, of course, is all too likely. Picture Florida circa 2015, a patch community full of big-eyed message-variants. I like the way Crichton's thriller brings us the usual low characters with the usual low motives—sleazy men with the hooks for unthinkably insured

**BEING FRESH
IS YOU BY
LY LOGICAL**

these endophobes don't have an affinity to the most dangerous places. As even Chamber says, he knows they're false and they don't feel much better than him in anyway. If you can accept, in effect, a technological neutralism of something as central as sexual arousal, why would you have any scruples about what technology can do for the human body in far more peripheral areas? By the time an aroused pedophile is advised by his lawyers to drain his need for transgressive sexual encounters it is due to his having the "savvy game," you begin to appreciate the humans that he shed for tactical advantage; but then, we're likely to wind up in rendering unprincipally the essence of humanity. It is, on Chabon's telling, both a theory and a study of crime, a post-psychoanalytic, post-technological, post-ecological, I would say, post-eclectic transcendence while I would say, post-eclectic transcendence through a hippy literary line as much as a real world by books like this, one who knows. Much like that black leather case. M.

MACLEAN'S
BESTSELLERS

COMPILED BY STEPHAN BUCHHEIT

West Java

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- | | |
|---|-------|
| THE NEW FROM CASTLE ROCK
by Alice Mayfield | 4:00 |
| 3 SECRETS FROM THE WOLF CAPE
by Stuart Moulton | 1:30 |
| 3 THE CUSTODIAN OF PARADISE
by Valerie Johnston | 0:04 |
| 4 INEPT
by Michael Chabon | |
| 5 SANTA FRANCESCA
by Irene Minervinsky | 2:03 |
| 6 THE LAW OF DREAMS
by Peter Berge | 0:02 |
| 7 GONZO'S GAME
by David Rago | 10:35 |
| 8 THE LAW OF THE LAND
by Richard Ford | 7:06 |
| 9 AGAINST THE DUTY
by Thomas Pynchon | 0:00 |
| 10 LIBBY & KONG
by Stephen King | 0:02 |
| Non-fiction | |
| 1 WINDS IN CHINA
by Margaret Hamilton | 0:00 |
| 2 THE LIFE AND DEATHS OF THE
TWO RECKLESS KIDS
by Neil Fryson | 3:00 |
| 3 THE UPRIGHT OF THINGS
by Thomas Hansen Gaiser | 0:07 |
| 4 THE GOD-BELLINGER
by R. Chami Gaskari | 7:00 |
| 5 CONRAD & LADY BLACK
by Tom Bowler | 0:00 |
| 6 KING'S CORNELL BLUES
by Tommy Lacroix | 10:02 |
| 7 THE INNOCENT MAN
by John Grisham | 0:0 |
| 8 THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON MUSIC
by Daniel Levitin | 4:02 |
| 9 THE WASHINGTON GAMBLERS
by Allan Gribben | 1:00 |
| 10 EIGHT SOLE UP
by Reed Mathis | 0:00 |

Flow-Action

WINDS IN CHINA
 by Margaret MacMaster

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE THUNDERBOLT KING by Bill Bryson

THE UPRISE OF DOWN
 by Thomas Hester Grace

THE GOD DELUSION
 by R. Chomsky

CONRAD & LADY BLACK
 by Ross Brown

KING'S COUNSELLORS
 by Tony Leacock

THE INNOCENT MAN
 by John Grisham

THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON MUSIC
 by Daniel Levitin

THE WASHINGTON DIARIES
 by Allan Gribble

THE NIGHT SIDE UP by Rod Wells



THE BERLIN STATE OPERA'S production of Mozart's *Idomeneo*. This week the audience was required to go through virtual obstacles.

Losing their heads at the opera

Berlin's behanding of Muhammad is 'another instalment in the humiliation of music'

BY JIMME J. WEISMAN • What do people want when they go to the opera? The usual things: great singing, beautiful costumes and religious leaders' severed heads. A production of Mozart's *Idomeneo* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin focuses a score with the Prophet Muhammad's head and no corresponding body in sight. It's because the most famous beheading in the world of opera, or at least a close second to John the Baptist's head on a platter in Richard Strauss's *Salome*.

Not that the director of the production, Hans Neuenfels, is trying to single out Muhammad as particularly despicable. The dramatic scene in his production (which he created three years ago) includes the beheaded heads of many religious figures: Jesus and Buddha are there, and even the pagan sea god Neptune. Mozart's opera, which premiered in 1781, is about the wrath directed by Neptune towards the title character, a Cretan king. Neuenfels, who refused to allow his production to be staged without the beheading scene, says he included it to lodge a protest against "any form of expressed religion or its founders." In other words, he's not going to let the gods path on around anyone.

But the message came of the Deutsche Oper was less worried about the wrath of the gods than the wrath of the godfather. While the production had played without incident a few years back, everything changed in 2006, when Danish cartoon of Muhammad depicted riots all over the world. It was the European equivalent of Janet Jackson's exposed breast at the Super Bowl. It may take some time to cut off Muhammad's head, but it was once okay to show an exposed posterior on American television. But in a post-crisis world, everyone's

a little more sensitive to these things.

The opera house's directors ultimately decided not to pull Muhammad from its scheduled after the chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel, said that the show goes on for the sake of freedom of speech. But although there were few if any reports of actual threats against the production, the management is taking no chances: this work's performance of the opera required the audience to go through mental obstacles. Apparently they were afraid they might experience a level of violence not seen since the Marx Brothers welcomed North's *It Happened*.

Angry musicians and controversy are nothing new for Neuenfels, who's been creating "outrageous" opera performances for decades. Before *Idomeneo*, he was probably best known for a production of the Johann Sebastian opera *Die Flöte des Zauberers*, where he set the whole thing in Nazi Germany. Piotr Kozminski, a Polish music critic, called that production "another instalment in the great humiliation of music that has been going on for years in those open houses, particularly in Europe, which have forfeited all power to the director at the expense of the conductor and the singers." But he might be severely hazy here, writing about Neuenfels' version of Mozart's *Così fan Tutti*, in which the soprano Kerli Mathis had to sing on a scale while leading two

leather clad men around on ladders. Mathis said of that production: "I felt like a beaver dog after every performance."

But that's not just Neuenfels' way of doing opera; it's how Germany's way of doing opera in general. In North America and England, opera productions tend to be fairly straightforward, with the occasional trendy Robert LePage production thrown in for people who don't like their opera with Viking helmets. But in countries like Germany and France, non-traditional opera stagings have become the new tradition, it would be revolutionary to have a production of *Idomeneo* that didn't have some gruesome or depressing gimmick. And as Kozminski implied, these productions are focused on the director at the expense of the music and the performers of the hundreds of hours without about *Idomeneo*, hardly any mentioned who the singers are. (For the record, the production stars the Spanish tenor José Cura as the title character who gets to carry the infant's head.)

So even if cutting off Muhammad's head doesn't really catch on, adding violence or sex to 18th-century opera is a trend that won't go away. Neuenfels himself just unveiled a production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, also in Berlin, which he's replaced the flute with a large wooden penis. And despite the diabolical overtones his production gets, he'll still have a home on the operatic stages of central Europe countries, where opera is meant to make you angry. Call it the Eurotrash Union. ■

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PERFORMANCE OF THE WEEK: SCIENTOLOGY SPAS
Hollywood just like a Hollywood church—except it's Christmas show. A Very Merry Unsubstantiated Christmas's Scientology-themed denches the traditional magic of the season as it brings viewers to explain in song how it's done. Hubbard's sci-fi religion became a global money-making cult. A revival of a 2003 show, the segment is currently running in New York featuring child amateurs singing songs such as Science of the Mind and Mister Aulander.

SECTIONS PAGE here drive a nation's economy. Does my belted look good in this? Is the colour right for me?

The horror of the store fitting room

Why does everything from the lighting to the mirrors seem designed to discourage buying?

BY BARBARA AMIEL • The mission of the fitting room is one of life's little agonies. This, after all, is where we make decisions that sway a nation's economy. Does my belted look good in this? Is the colour right for me? Yet, in front of mirrors that show each sag and dimple, everything seems designed to prevent the customer from actually making a purchase.

A good fitting room has, first and foremost, the right lighting. You're not so much to be an unbuttoned Gloria Swanson thing as *Summer Rainforest*, but neither do you want harsh lighting that would make Catherine Zeta-Jones look like a vampire. It's handy when buying a skirt to actually see what colour it is without having to go to the store's front door, waving off security alarms. This shouldn't be complicated to arrange.

In fact, to avoid artificial light close to day light is expensive, and it may not be the colour of light wanted anyway. Both architect and lighting designer have to first with the way the "room" was used. Ralph Lauren will want a warmer lighting than, say, American Apparel, which uses a bit brighter look to match its face cream-cosmetics. Then, most fitting rooms aren't single use—they are used for daywear and evening wear, but the lighting is the same.

During the '90s, the aim of the boutique experiential was drama and excitement for the customer. The most striking lighting contrasts, and by extension the need for mirrors, belated in about making the customer feel "special." Translating: more but brighter lighting, more personalized fitting rooms, or at least new/old put in an article about Gap Inc.'s new chain North & Towne, "fitting rooms more fitting for social interaction."

Shops use a mix of fluorescent and halogen lighting. Different lengths have different colour spectrums. "A blue might look brown and a brown might look red if you use cool HID lamps," says interior designer Diego Burdi (Holt Renfro, Neiman Marcus, Club Monaco), referring to those lamps that make you look plus-size. Fluorescent.

Fluorescent halogen lighting (and the M80s with mirrors that Buick used in the newly renovated Holt Renfro in Toronto) is expensive, but fabric and colour are perfectly rendered. Successful fitting rooms have a combination of direct and indirect lighting, usually warm fluorescent and white halogen.

"Lighting is the most sensitive issue in the retail world and everyone has a different philosophy," explains Burdi. A sampling illustrates these differences: Cheap and cheap H&M has fluorescent fitting rooms with bright lights and well-placed mirrors. Customers going into Toronto's Bay, on the other hand, may feel they should wear their privacy gear. Outside the fitting rooms is a four-foot-plus chandelier. On the mirrors in each fitting room is a sticker warning of ripples that tug at the neck—usually have a dye that "could cause permanent injury" if the ripples are removed. Think dust on the stained doors.

Does the answer is the Hermès store—no fitting rooms but strips of fluorescent light

ing on either side of the mannequins against that makes it impossible to see. This actually proves that having a woman on the design team doesn't help. Ren Dumais, wife of Hermès chairman Jean-Louis Dumais, is a sculptural architect and designer.

Mirrors can be the final straw. American Apparel has white cotton curtains framing its cubicles—and commercial mirrors outside. Most customers dislike stepping out of the sanctity of the fitting room in order to see themselves and the persuasive salesperson.

The urban retail myth of "dressing" mirrors hinges for good reason: clothes that look fabulous on you in the fitting room mysteriously appear very much less so at home. Mission that advice was then's agent to the chief—don't show those outside mirrors when they don't see discussing mirrors, considering only that the different shades of light (new-coloured) on their mirror make customers look "healthier."

At last year's Architectural, Retail & Corporate Lighting Show in London, attended by predominantly male architects and light-spectacular, Dennis Heyrick's presentation "Lighting for Retail Therapy" unearthed a gross truth. "Unflattering fluorescent lighting in dressing rooms can make the customer think she looks so bad she'll forget why she brought the dress in to try on in the first place," Amen. And I'll bet he doesn't even have cellulite. ■



THE LATEST THING IN... NAUGHTY KNITTING

Websites such as Yarn Hooty, KnitPromises and Look My Knits are putting the knitty into knitting with adult-only patterns for the like-for-like style. Along with adult-size sweaters, all made with yarn. One of the new paddocks of naughty knitting, where Miss Lane, offers up patterns such as "Kinderwhore," very naughty socks for adults and the cozy-like covers for sex toys. Look is planning a business show featuring all-kind adult.



ALLURE

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LUCERNE



High precision



CARLIER KING Charles spoiled Ruby going for a stroll in Calgary in his new sling. "Dogs are babies too," says sling creator Kim Ramsey.

Over-the-shoulder Fido holders

Some people may be doing a double take at 'pet parents' toting their dogs like newborns

BY REBECCA KESLER • "That's certainly one way to carry your dog around," says a friendily but somewhat astonished passerby who's just seen Ruby, my nine-pound Cavalier King Charles spaniel, and me taking an afternoon stroll along 10th Street in Calgary. Well, I'm walking. Ruby is being carried in a baby sling. Shortly afterwards, at an Indian restaurant and grocery store called Mitosis, where I order a sandwich, a woman in line starts baby-talking to Ruby, stroking her head close to the sling where Ruby's nose-head is pecking out. "Aren't you cute? Yes you are. You are so!" she coos, cradling Ruby's nose. I feel like, well, a proud mother.

Dogs are no longer simply precious accessories, living outside in the glorious life of the rich and famous in a Dior or Louis Vuitton pet carrier. They're now officially being "cuddled," thanks to a recent dog-sling craze. While wearing your dog in a sling is a tradition practiced all over the world, mini-dogs are just now beginning to be used around baby newborns. For about \$160, there's the Baby Carrier "My Dog Is Cuddler Than Your Dog" sling. And if that price point is too high, 3 Cuz Blankets, a Vancouver-based baby blanket and baby sling company, has just introduced their own dog sling, made of premium Canadian fleece, for \$75.

"There's such a huge community of dog owners in Vancouver," says Kim Ramsey, who was an architectural designer before launching up with 3 Cuz Blankets to create the snug baby sling and now dog sling. "I'll see people everywhere with dogs, also carrying shopping bags, not being allowed into some cafes and stores because of their dogs. And then when I had my baby and was toting her around in the sling, all my friends with kids

were asking if they could try it out with their dogs. It made perfect sense to create a sling specifically for dogs. Dogs are babies too."

Ramsey thinks the psychological advantages—like bonding and calting your baby down quickly—also come with carrying a child in a sling, are true for carrying your dog to well. "I have one customer who watches television and cuddles with their dog in their sling for hours." Not to mention the ease of having your hands free, the sling may save new moms a run to the store. "It's an convenience for people when it rains, too. They just tuck their dogs in and they're taken care of in the sling and kind of snuggled into their chest," says Ramsey. "If your dog is floppy and floppy and rambles in, you can't sit if it's a baby or a dog." The 3 Cuz dog slings are meant for dogs eight pounds and lighter, and come in six colours. "When people like puppies, they want a blue sling for male dogs and a pink sling for females," she explains.

Nancy Horowitz, who owns Barkin Babes, a fashion boutique dog store in Vancouver (meaning they do not sell dog food), already has a waiting list for the slings—they'll be getting there in within the next couple of weeks. She owns two dogs, one a 10-lb. Boston Terrier named Dink, the other a larger Jack Russell terrier. "My husband and I don't know if we'll ever have kids. So I treat my

dogs like my kids and I love them like my kids," says the 35-year-old.

"The slings are amazing for dogs," says Horowitz. "So many customers come in with their dogs or puppies inside their jackets. That's a long way for a dog to fall, if they do. When they come in like this, I tell them, 'I'm going to have something better than carrying your dog that way for you.'"

The dog sling goes over one shoulder and feels like a shawl. It also features a seven-point safety strap for extra security. "When it got really cold here, I'd bundle babies in a sweater and jacket but the dog was still shivering. When the stroller shaking I'd just put her in the sling and she was warm and comfortable," says Horowitz. The slings, she says, are all about lifestyle choice. "Sometimes you want to go for a longer walk, but when you have such a small dog, they get tired after 30 minutes. This way you can put your dog in the sling." She says she's never received any negative comments while test-driving the sling. "Honestly, I only got smiles."

I can tell that some people, from the looks I get with Ruby, think it's a bit too much by the way they take a second glance and pose. That being said, I managed to carry around two grocery bags, and talk on my cell, with no feeling any of the weight of Ruby on my hip. On my way home, I pass a man walking his golden retriever. He stares and doesn't smile. Is he just jealous he can't put his dog in the sling? Ruby stays out perfectly. ■



WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT: COWARDLY LION COSTUME

A costume worn by Jack Black in 1999's *The Wizard of Oz* has been bought in an online Hollywood memorabilia auction for \$100,000. Blended with real hair, the costume fetched \$120,000 more than expected and verified online the sale last year of the grungy dress worn by Judy Garland in the same film, which sold for \$10,000. Other items for sale in the auction included Oliver Hardy's pants.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANTON LACROIX FOR EW.COM

COMMENT

'Twas the night before Thursday and all...



SCOTT FESCHUK

Christmas, once a sacred tradition for members of a religion known as "Christianity," has evolved into a wonderful secular event in which members of all cultures can share in the joy of gathering together with

loved ones, and ultimately warming up on one's family, often made of 36 hours. Alternately described as "the holidays" or "the season" or "when the freezing hell" this joyous time of year is now celebrated as a truly global Festival of Retail Merriment. Merely, this has necessitated the reworking of certain discontinued forms of entertainment, such as movies that date in seasons Christmas, which by unfortunate coincidence feature within the word "Christ," which itself is generally associated with Jesus. And on this day and age the last thing we need is to attach a religious connotation to our holidays.

The tradition of the season to join together under one roof with family and then watch one of the following new "holiday" films since we see of the five TV in the house

It's a Wonderful Deal

This indelible film classic gets an update in this version starring Jim Affleck as a salesman who is shown how horrible the world would be without our petriene seasonal price reductions on home electronics from Best Buy. The whole "Deal" thing is de-emphasized as the focus of the story is redirected to a merchandise deep-discount. "Everytime a bill rings," our hero laments, "a Charlie's Angel gets her face fried." Movie time: the DVD features an alternate and more upbeat ending in which, to the chagrin of the crew and extras, Affleck actually hurls himself from the ledge just as they cry out below.

I'm Dreaming of a White Skirt for the Holidays (Original title: *I'm Dreaming of a White*

Skirt for Christmas)

The holidays were a great period when our hero can't find a white skirt in his size. However, a sexy Gap employee (reminiscently looks in the back and actually finds her one). In a surprising demonstration, the customer manipulates her own looks.

The Grinch Who Stole My Identity

Through an encounter with an adorable young girl, a fairy harem (Daisy DeVita) discovers that Christmas doesn't come from a tree—it's new party music available online. He spends the final 75 minutes of the

next dose. The man goes back to bed, as we're leaving profusely.

A Muppet Family Holiday

Those lovable Muppets come up with guest stars Johnny Depp, Billy Maguire and Jaye Jaye to go shopping for efficiently lectured toys that feature the daily trademarked images of Johnny Depp, Billy Maguire and Beyoncé. Plus Miss Piggy karate-chops some one in three somewhere.

The Little Drummer Boy

This charming tale of an orphan boy and his



In 'A Charlie Brown Holiday,' Linus talks not of newborn Jesus, but of the 'Holiday Baby'

movie playing with the Xbox 360 (charged to Cindy Lou Who's Mom's Card)

A Charlie Brown Holiday

The classic animation about a young man, unattached with one exception (as a nod to the reality of life in a modern-day class, Lucy is rendered without underwear). But much of the dialogue has been added to make the closest connection between Christmas and the birth of Christ. Instead of the memorable anecdote of the man carrying a Christmas tree, Linus now delivers a sermon asserting that shoppers who unthinkingly wait for last Christmas are actually heeding the American economy and are therefore probably Christians. Also, his reference to the newborn "Jesus" has been replaced with the more inclusive term "Holiday Baby."

Movie on 34th Street

A department store Santa claims to be the real Saint Nick. However, with the help of a young boy, he leaves her in a list something for more valuable... a small employee.

Twice the Night Before Thursday

A new version in the middle of the night on Wednesday is a clarifying on his roof. He rushes to the window, turns open the shutters, throws up the sack and what looks wedding ring should appear but his teenage son, smoking pot with his sister but from

curled was considered woefully abusive by today's audience because it was filmed using stop motion photography and also it was times Jesus. Thanks to a modest covering, it is now the magic but ultimately surprising story of what Tommy Lee's life would have been like if the season's well-known.

National Lampoon's Holiday Horror

In the greatest of all seasonal horrors, Chevy Chase as someone actually funny for, like, five minutes.

A Holiday Carol

In the modern adaptation, the character George, president and chief executive officer of Wal-Mart Stores Inc., is hired for his capitalistic moxie in forcing handouts of thousands of Americans to work Christmas Day. Also, George is haunted by three happy old ladies from PEZ, and he uses the light and agrees to tell his story. Waking up on Christmas morning, George rushes to the window and inquires of a young boy, "What day is it?" Upon being told it is Christmas Day, George is filled with the joy of the season until he recognizes the child as an escaped labourer from his workshop. A just festive and jolly cheer some scenes. ■

ON THE WEB: For Scott Feschuk's take on the news of the day visit his webblog www.mattmccain.com/feschuk



ON NEWSSTANDS APRIL 17, 2006



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FOOTBALL

ALL OUR ROWDY FRIENDS ARE COMING NORTH FOR A NIGHT

The NFL may still be years off, but the thrill of big-time American football has arrived in Canada. Set for Oct. 6, Toronto's Rogers Centre will host the inaugural International Bowl, pitting college stars from Western Michigan against Cincinnati.

The frenzy hasn't been a hard sell in eight years and the Browns will be playing with a new head coach. But hey, it could be worse. We could be hosting the Pope joins our Bowl. Jason Wilkey

B&B

GOMER IN ALL HIS GLORY

DVD producer Paul Brownstein is doing TV's answer to Ray's Criterion Collection. For the first season of *Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.*, starring Jim Nabors in the big and Marlon Brando in the big, has reached radio introduction and commentary by the one plus obscure archival footage like a David Frost interview with Nabors. Brownstein's collection

and features can also be seen with two favorite series, like the *Glenn Ford Show*, *Get Smart*, *The Wild Wild West* and *Polaris*. Still, waiting for the *My Mother the Car* special edition, though. Jason F. Wittenman

GADGETS

35 TOOLS AND NOTHING TO FIX



There's no problem too big to solve when you have the *Wagner* Giant Swiss Army Knife, complete with 35 tools, including file, screwdriver, saw, and more. It's not just a tool, it's a Swiss Army knife. Jason F. Wittenman

BOOKS

MIRROR IMAGES

It takes *The Reader* about 300 pages just to set up the true crime, prison and conviction of the two police officers who consider the worst rapist cops in New York's long and corrupt history. That's a compelling enough story, why told by

AGE INAPPROPRIATE (B&W) Cate Blanchett in *Home on a Range*

FILM

CATE GOES CRADLE-ROBBING

Amid all the blockbuster bling of the holiday movie season, *Notes on a Scandal* arrives as a tiny perfect gem. Based on Zoe Heller's Booker-nominated novel, it's a story of sexual impropriety, adultery tangled with dark comedy about how that explodes with dire consequences. Think of a lighter *Damages*, or a more compact *Chloe*—which was also written by *Notes* on a scandal screenwriter Patrick Marber. Reuniting with director Richard Eyre (1916), Dame Judi Dench plays Barbara, a lonely teacher and acerbic character who befriends Sheila (Cate Blanchett), a new teacher at her school. After Barbara discovers Sheila is involved in a scandal affair with a 15-year-old student, she explores the secret for emotional blackmail. There's a delicious, icy juxtaposition of it to each of Sheila's relationship with the precocious student she can't refuse, with the predatory man who guards her secret, and with her own husband, a significantly older man (Neil Patrick Harris). As a vaguely bookish bean who feels stifled by family life (her child has Down's syndrome), Barbara crosses an ethical portrait of a well-meaning woman who delves into the abyss. Dench, dispensing subtle observations with a vicious wit, has never been better. And the dramatic excitement is stepped along by a haunting score from Philip Glass—what is to our advantage of his music from *The Hours*, you wonder if he was trying to channel Virginia Woolf. Brian D. Johnson

HOKEY

THE FIRST WORD ON HOCKEY

Arthur Finkel's *Hockey Canada's Royal Winter Game* is believed to be the first book written about our national obsession. New sports aficionados can peruse a digital copy of its annotated pages—go to www.hockeycanada.ca—the sole Canadian version of the 1989 book had been held by Montreal Gazette columnist Rod Poirier and loaned to hockey researchers, including Stephen Harper, who has been studying the sport's history. Library and Archives Canada snagged it from the PM, preserved it and digitized it. Now it's safely tucked away at www.hockeycanada.ca. Patrick Marber

DRINK

BECH YOU CAN'T SIP JUST ONCE

Becherovka—addictively sweet, honey-scented liqueur flavoured with anise and cinnamon—originated in the Czech Republic as a herbal remedy. In 1903, pharmacist Josef Becher began selling honey-scented liqueur as "stomach drops," and consumers demanded bigger bottles. Cerebrius Ltd., Becherovka's agent in Canada, hopes to expand distribution beyond the few outlets in Alberta and Ontario that currently carry the perennially popular concoction. Others served chilled, it's ideal as either an aperitif or digestive. A cure-all? Don't let the name fool you. Danylo Hontela



1979-2005

She loved sea turtles and old-stand forests. 'She could take off with a backpack and be fine for a long time.'

Leslie and brother Bruce were born in Saint John's, N.B., on Dec. 26, 1978, to Marilyn and Michael Braca, a jeweler who would later become an insurance broker. At one time, Leslie was gregarious, says Marilyn, and a "really smart." When she was only 15 months old, Marilyn says, she was surprised to hear her daughter talking to herself in her bed, sounding out the names of family friends. At three, Michael remembers, Leslie was riding in his car with his only brother when she started to sing "Swanee, Swanee!" she said "Swanee, Andrew!" she said "Swanee, Andrew!" Leslie was a top student at Seawood Elementary School and excelled in French at Randall Memorial. In fact, Marilyn says, Leslie loved the very idea of teaching. "When the children were little, they had a blackboard and the mom'd make her brother sit down and do arithmetic on a table." She was a voracious reader, Marilyn says. "I couldn't buy her any south books."

But Leslie also loved the outdoors. After Marilyn and Michael divorced, Leslie spent her early summers at her dad's cottage near Saint John where, days, she "linguistically" swam the river; a distance of about a mile and a half. She also learned to canoe, and to drive his power boat. As an eight-year-old, she went to Camp Greenbush, a YM/YWCA residential camp also on the Saint John River on Bellefleur Bay. Over the years, she rose through the ranks from counselor-in-training to environmental director, teaching children about recycling and composting. "I like to think the good I've done of nature from Glenora's," says former camp director David Love. "It is really mine. There is no boat, no electricity. It always leads to, 'What, how can we save the environment?'"

By the time Leslie hit her late teens, she started to buck the system and her family. She graduated with honors from St. Gregory's Mercantile High School in 1997, but she eschewed the finance major, the University of New Orleans, and she went instead to where her dad died: "junk crafting" Microt Allisons in Stoville, where she became a member of the environmentally-tilted Blue-Green Society. Still, Leslie, he says, "I was so used to being dead." She was so passionate, I used to worry about her." Marilyn says it differently: "She became more and more aware that the world is in danger. She was quite distraught about her father dying a big \$170." And she says that he



used to make for Linda's "wind-blown-hairdo hippies" and everyone in the family recalls her fragrant, herbaceous—a record-holder for the inebriation—were for eight years. So, her friend and Missouri Aromantic Norma Jean MacIsaac recalls their time together as "magical." We never went to it and Hilary Landis, now in Missouri Aromantic, remembers a vision of Linda's world: macadamia nut butter peanut stew—with peanut butter and coconut milk as special ingredients. And the seeds taking root in the Climate Change Caravan, a 400-mile trip from Tulsa, B.C., to Halifax on bicycles with some 10 Missouri Aromantics, organized by Linda to raise awareness. As their support vehicle, the group had a second vegetable oil-powered bus. "The joke was," her father says, "was if you followed it, you thought you were driving into a McDonald's. The mission revolved like french fries." Linda's activism was beginning to grow. "I told Linda, you have to get out and get a job," Michael says. "She said, 'There's liberation and love in this.'"

Arbutus punicea and fireweed attest, Leslie observed everything she could do the year after she graduated with a B.S. from Mount A. In October 2001, after two years at her high school, Road Charterne Lathrop traveled to America to work on organic farms. Leslie made a side trip to China to visit a boyfriend. She and a group of friends bought a 120-acre property in Jintan, Guangdong, N.S., and began to raise it into an organic farm. She worked to save ten turtles and old-growth forests. The practiced yin-yang, studied Buddhism, and went out dancing at night. Along the way, she grew into a self-sufficient woman. "She could take off with a backpack and be there for a long time," Charlotte says. "You looked at her and she looked stressed."

In the fall of 1965, Leslie decided to go back to school—the University of New Brunswick at Fredericton—to get a Bachelor of Education degree. She was pleased to teach Grade 1 this year.

On Thursday, Dec. 7 at about 9:00 p.m., Leslie walked out of UNB. She took a shortcut—a four-lane section of Route 1 behind the university's rec center. She was hit by a tow truck and died on her way to Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital. Left behind on the rain-soaked road was a pouch and battered school bag she had carried since Grade 7.

附了 附人重其武勇也 其北江可也





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